NEW LONE WOLF & CUB

新・子連れ狼

KAZUO KOIKE
HIDEKI MORI

2

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新・子連れ狼

2

STORY
KAZUO KOIKE

ART
HIDEKI MORI

ORIGINAL
ART CONCEPT
GOSEKI KOJIMA

TRANSLATION
DANA LEWIS

LETTERING
STUDIO CUTIE

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PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

U.S. EDITOR
CHRIS WARNER

ASSISTANT EDITOR
EVERETT PATTERSON

DESIGNER
HEATHER DOORNINK

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新子連れ狼
LONE WOLF
原作・小池一夫
作画・森秀樹
作画原案・小島剛夕

A Note to Readers

NEW LONE WOLF AND CUB is a carefully researched re-creation of Edo-period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain terms of the period that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous words with multiple meanings. In the glossary, you may encounter these words. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning is intended, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet.

Some characters in this series come from the Satsuma region of Japan, an area with its own distinctive dialect. Some common words in this dialect have been left untranslated to better give the impression of this dialect being spoken. These terms are defined in the glossary. Other characters in the story come from places or cultural strata (country folk, gangsters) for which there is no direct translation to identify these characteristics. Here they are given corresponding Americanized speech patterns to highlight these traits.

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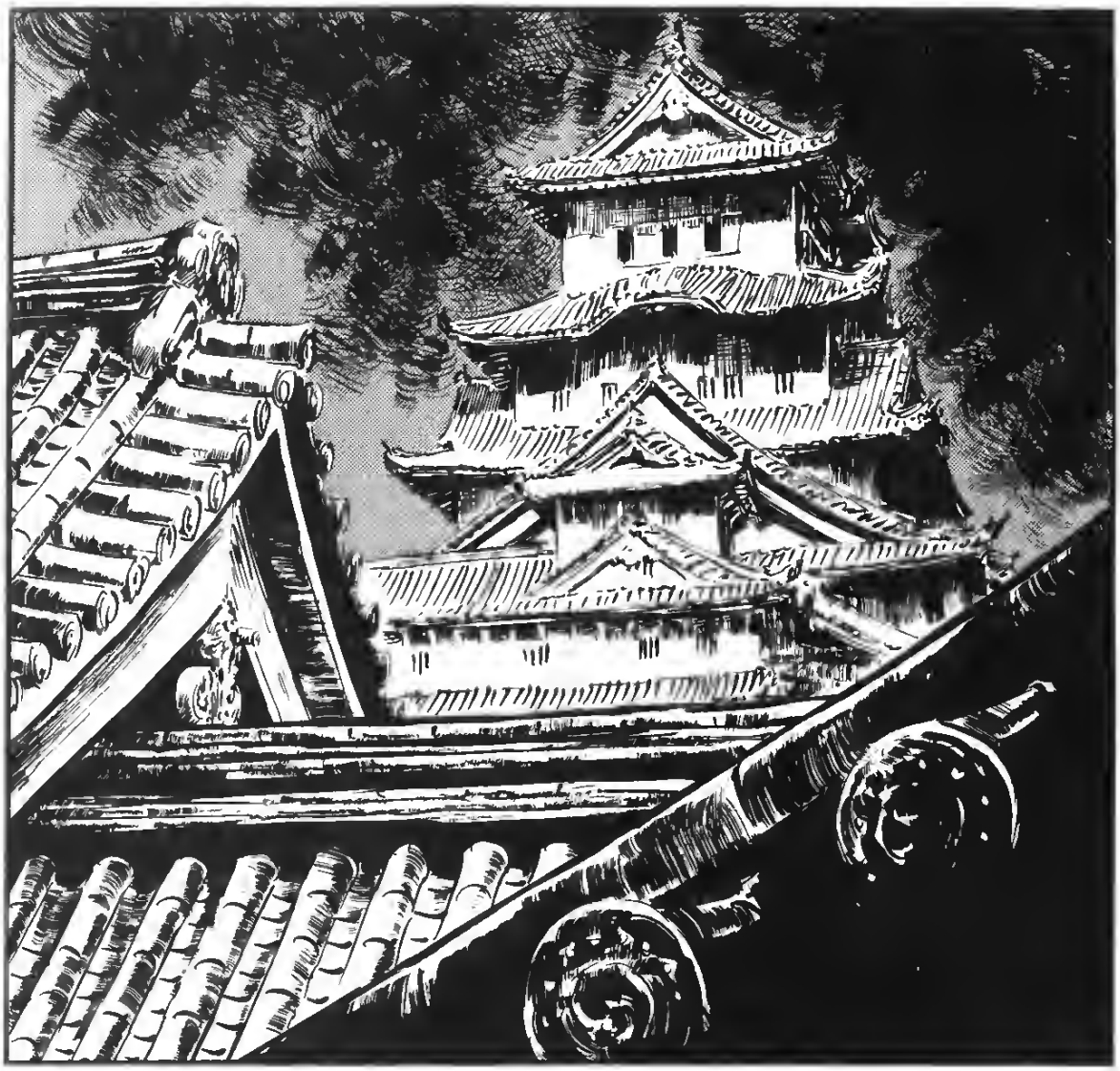
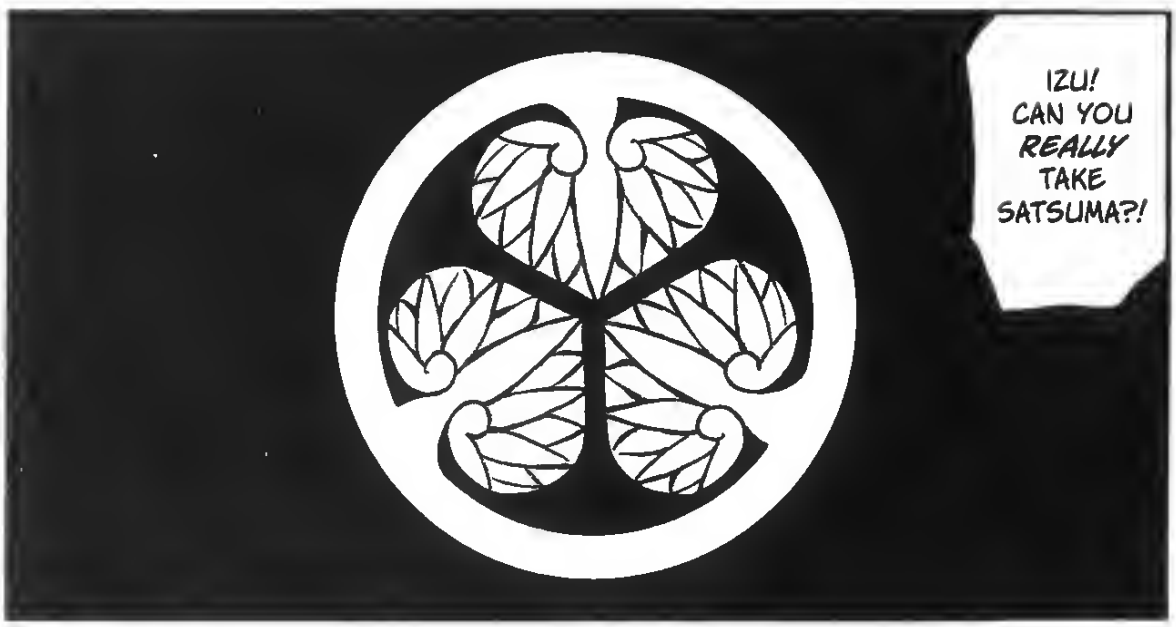
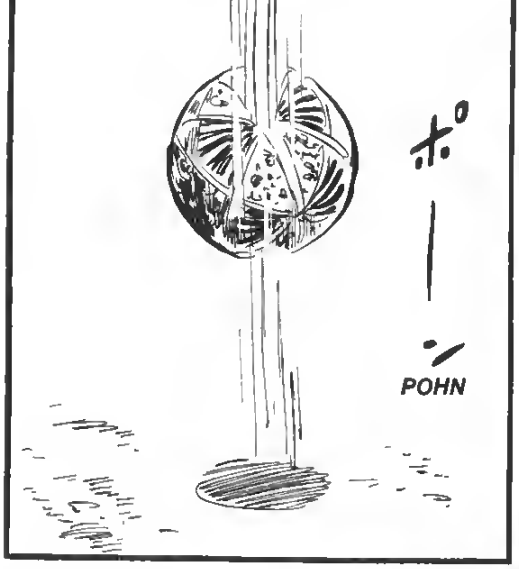
其之二
剣と拳（二）
THE SECOND
SWORD AND FIST,
PART 1

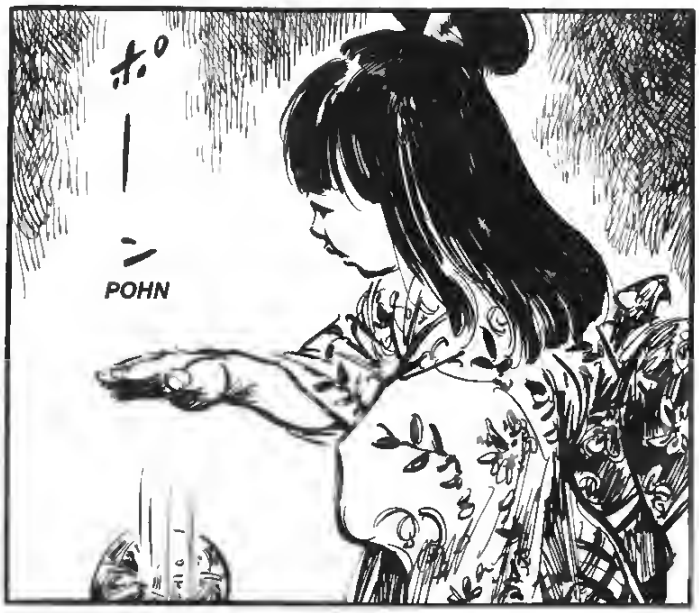


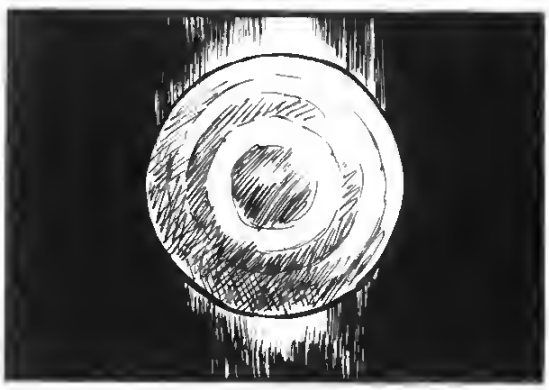

IZU!
CAN YOU
REALLY
TAKE
SATSUMA?!

WHAT SACRIFICE? PEOPLE?
IT WILL BE HARD. VERY HARD WITHOUT GREAT SACRIFICE.
TO BEGIN... PRINCESS AYA AND HER GOVERNESS, CHŪRŌ FUJIEDA-DONO.


POHN

I MUST HAVE AYAHIME-SAMA SENT TO SATSUMA IN MARRIAGE.


POHN



TO MITSUHISA'S GRANDSON TSUGU-TOYO?!

SHIMAZU MITSUHISA IS AN UNYIELDING *WARRIOR*. HE NEVER GIVES IN!
WHAT IF THE OLD COOT *REFUSES?* WHAT *THEN?!*

ガ"
GASP!
IT PAINS ME TO SAY THIS, MY LORD. BUT THE INSTANT AYAHIME-SAMA ENTERS TSURUMARU CASTLE...
...I WILL NEED TO HAVE HER DIE.
ポン
POHN

BUT SINCE SHE COULD NEVER DO THAT...
CHŪRŌ-DONO MUST BE THE ONE TO KILL THE PRINCESS.
...I HAVE ARRANGED FOR AN ASSASSIN FROM THE RYUKYUS* TO REMOVE HER ENROUTE, AND TAKE HER PLACE. HIS NAME IS UMENOKI.

*SEE FOOTNOTES

THE HAN WILL BE DISBARRED. IN PENANCE, THEY'LL RETURN THEIR LANDS TO THE SHOGUNATE.
B-BUT THERE'S NO WAY MITSUHISA WON'T SEE RIGHT THROUGH THIS. HE'LL DO ALL HE CAN TO REFUSE AYAHIME.

THE SHŌGUN'S PRINCESS DIES A MYSTERIOUS DEATH IN SATSUMA'S CASTLE.
UMENOKI IS A MASTER OF DISGUISE. IT WILL BE CHILD'S PLAY FOR HIM TO IMPERSONATE CHŪRŌ-DONO.

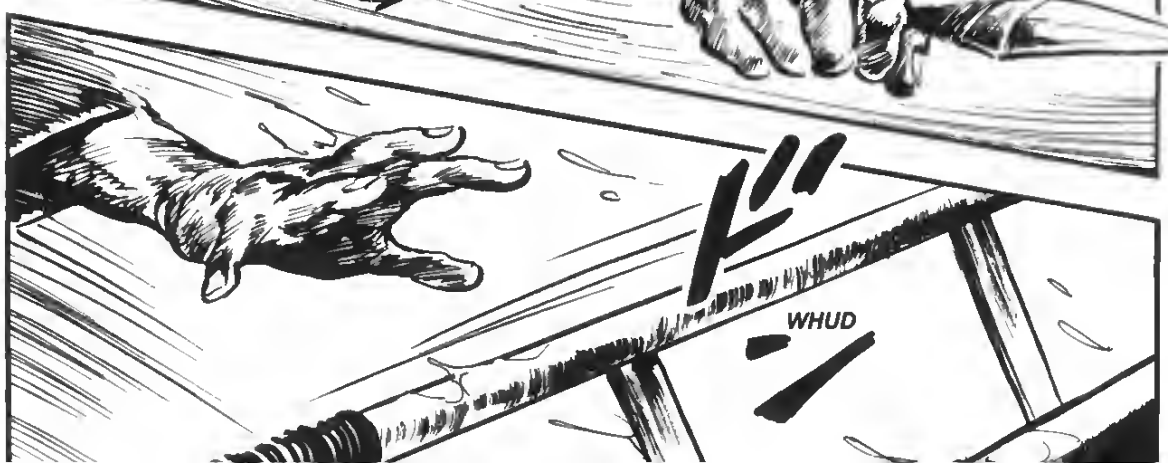
ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T KNOW IT HIMSELF!

AHEM
AHEM
THERE WILL BE A REASON HE CANNOT REFUSE HER. A SWORDSMAN BY THE NAME OF TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA IS DELIVERING THAT REASON TO SATSUMA AS WE SPEAK.

磯ン浜辺を
き・れ・てが通るゥ
ほうたい
落てたアー
♫ ISO NO
HAMABE
O KIRETE
GA TŌRU-- ♪
どんこびっちが
びっちったアー
♫ HŌTAI
OCHITETA--!
DONKO BICCHI
GA BICCHITTA-- ♪

DONKO MEANS FROG IN SATSUMA, DAIGORO.
SPASH!
SPASH!
FUNNY, HM?
A PROUD MAN WALKS ALONG THE SHORE. BUT HE'S SO PUFFED UP HE CAN'T SEE HIS OWN FEET, SO HE FALLS INTO A DITCH AND STEPS ON A FROG.
AH, THAT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES! A SATSUMA HEKOUTA, RIGHT?
I HEARD YOU AND COULDN'T HELP CALLING OUT.
OI WAS BORN IN SATSUMA SHIGETOMI, BAI.

*SEE FOOTNOTES



チェストー
CHESUTOOO!*
*SEE FOOTNOTES

ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA

ガラ
GARA

ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA

GARA
GARA
FAMM
GLRRK
SKUSSH

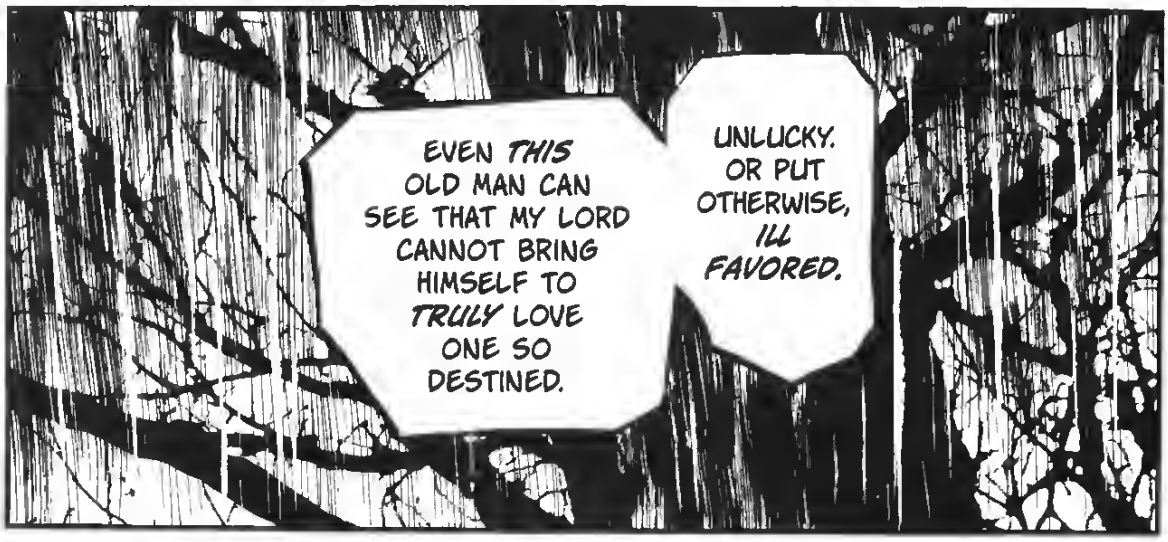
DO-N-
KO...

チャポン
KPLOP

KSSSSHHH

KSSHH
AT SIX SHE WAS PROMISED TO PRINCE ARISUGAWA-NO-MIYA'S HEIR,* BUT HE ALSO DIED AN UNTIMELY DEATH. TRULY, SHE WAS BORN UNDER AN UNLUCKY STAR.
AYAHIME-SAMA WAS BETROTHED TO THE SON OF LORD AIZU WHEN SHE WAS FOUR, BUT THE LAD DIED YOUNG.

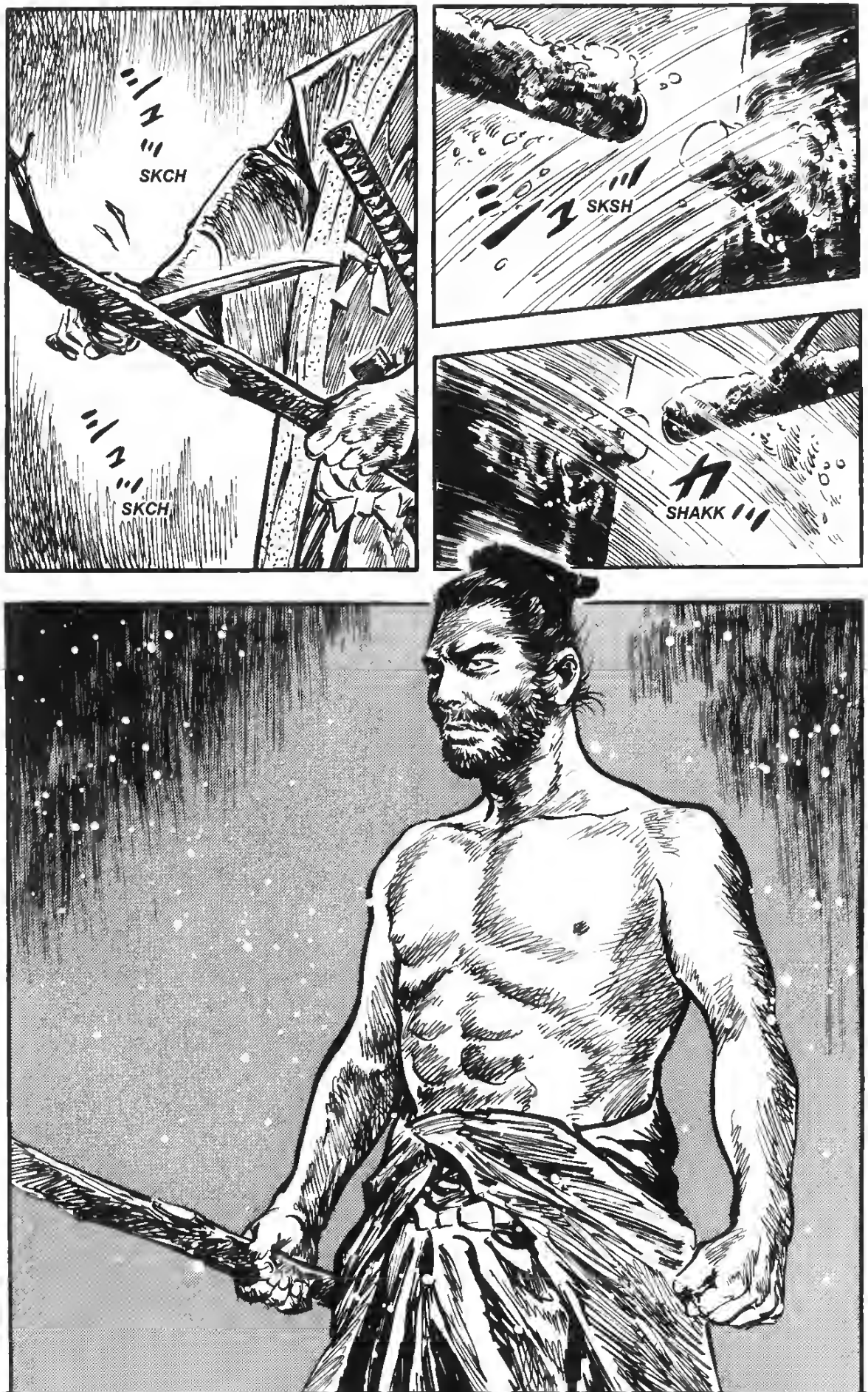
*SEE FOOTNOTES.


EVEN THIS OLD MAN CAN SEE THAT MY LORD CANNOT BRING HIMSELF TO TRULY LOVE ONE SO DESTINED.
UNLUCKY. OR PUT OTHERWISE, ILL FAVORED.

MY LORD. IT IS THE ONLY WAY.

IZU. YOU'RE AS UGLY AS A TOAD.

其之二
剣と拳(二)
THE SECOND
SWORD AND FIST,
PART 3


SKCH
SKCH
SKSH
SHAKK

DSHH

JIGEN-RYŪ, SNOW DASH!
WATCH, DAIGORO!

KRAK

SHRSSS
KRAK

SHRSSS

KRAKK
SHRSSS
KRAKK
KRAKK
SHRSSS
KRAKK
CHESUTOOO!
ちぇいすとおー

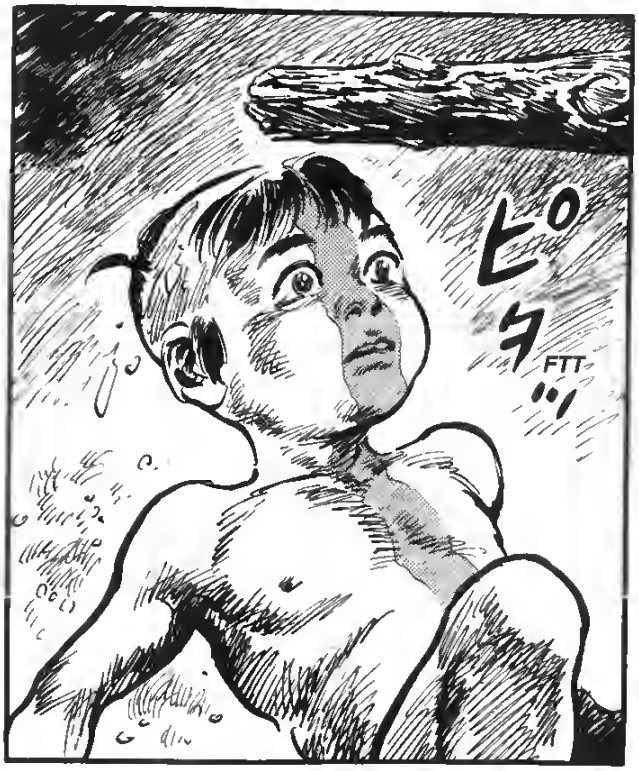
KRAKK

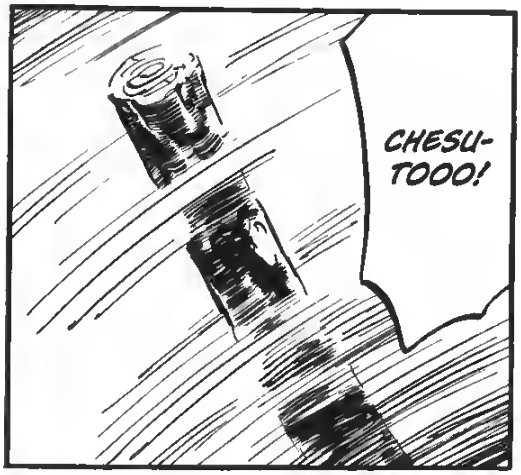
STRIKE THE TRUNK, THE SNOW ON THE BRANCHES FALLS!
DODGE AS YOU RUN SO NONE TOUCHES YOU, THEN STRIKE THE NEXT TREE!
SHSSSH
ATTACK !!
REPEAT ONE HUNDRED TIMES!
YOU CAN'T TELL IF THE SNOW GETS YOU UNLESS YOU'RE NAKED.
ARE YOU READY, DAIGORO ?!

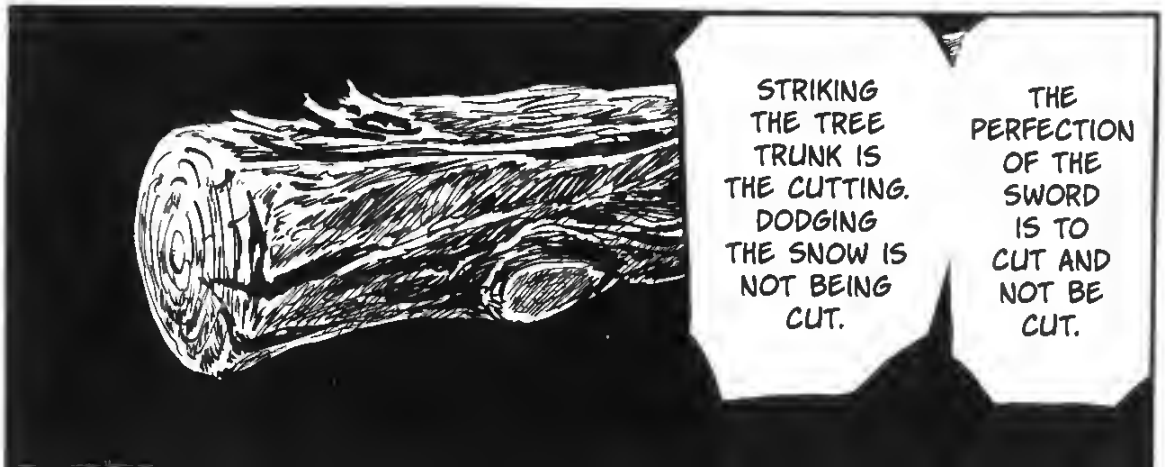
KAK
KAK
SPRASSH
BOOSH
KAK

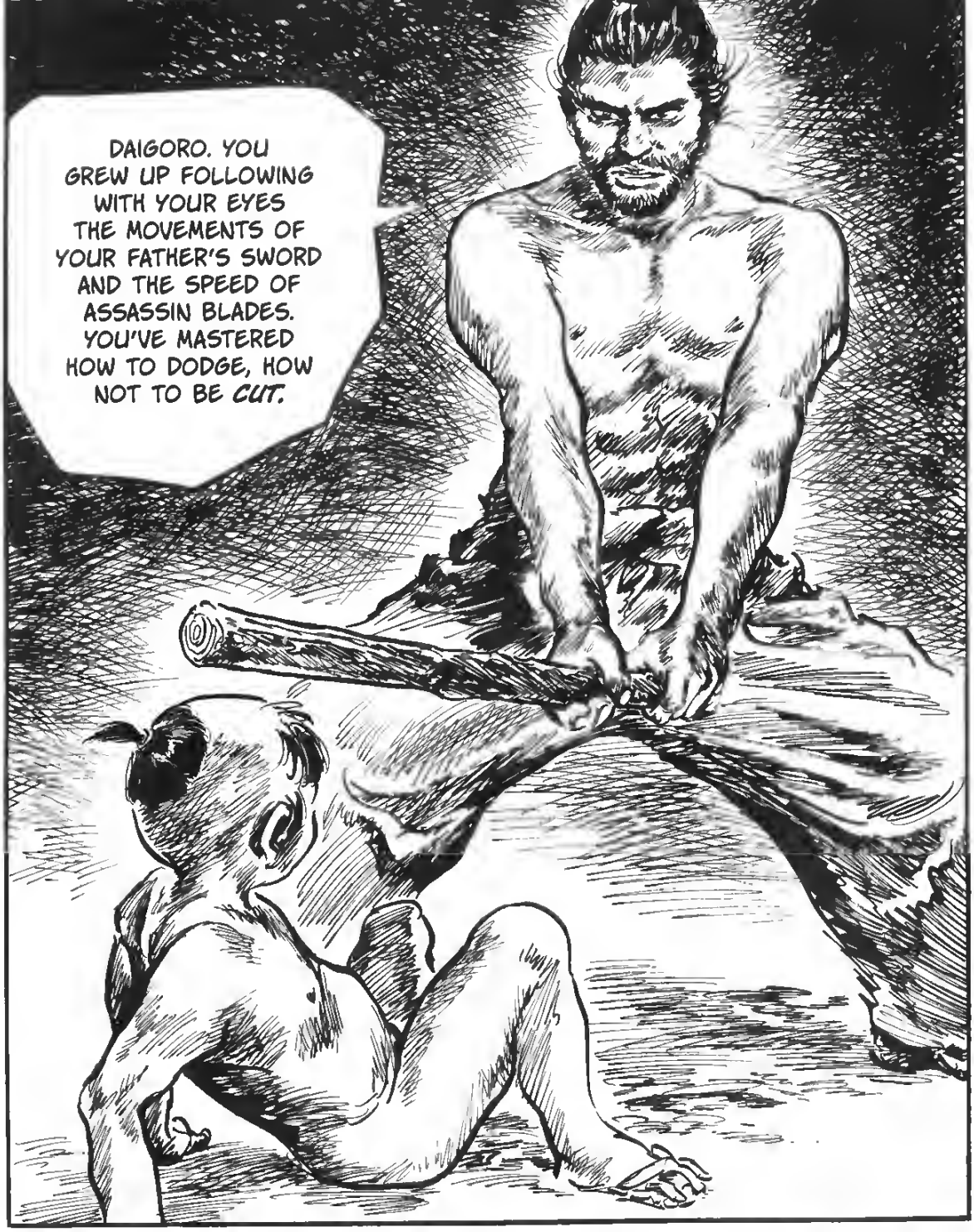
ビュー
FSST
ゴン
THOK
ゴン
THOK
ゴー
THAK
ガ
KAK
ゴー
THNK
ガーン
KRAK
コン
KLOK

TP
TP
TP


FTT


CHESU-
TOOO!


STRIKING THE TREE TRUNK IS THE CUTTING. DODGING THE SNOW IS NOT BEING CUT.
THE PERFECTION OF THE SWORD IS TO CUT AND NOT BE CUT.


DAIGORO. YOU GREW UP FOLLOWING WITH YOUR EYES THE MOVEMENTS OF YOUR FATHER'S SWORD AND THE SPEED OF ASSASSIN BLADES. YOU'VE MASTERED HOW TO DODGE, HOW NOT TO BE *CUT.*

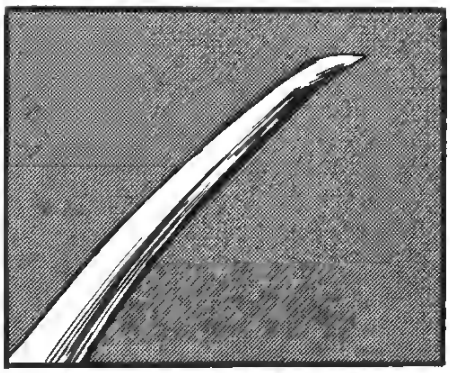
BUT! BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED THE ART OF THE CUT, WHEN YOU TRY DOING BOTH AT ONCE YOU CAN'T EVEN DODGE!

IN SATSUMA, YASSENBO MEANS COWARD!
YOU HAVE NINETY-NINE CHANCES LEFT! IF YOU DON'T FINISH, YOU'LL BE A YASSENBO!
ガー
DM
SHRSSS
カ"
KAK
カ"
KAK
ゴ"
THOK
ちえすとおー
CHESUTOOO!
ヨロ…
SKFF
ヨロ…
SKFF

IF YOU CALL YOURSELF HIS *KODON*, THEN *OHAN* MUST BE EVEN *STRONGER* THAN HE WAS!
DAIGORO. *OHAN'S TECHO* WAS THE GREATEST SWORDSMAN IN JAPAN.
IF NOT, YOU'LL BE BRANDED A *YASSENBO*, WHO *DEFILED* HIS FATHER'S NAME!

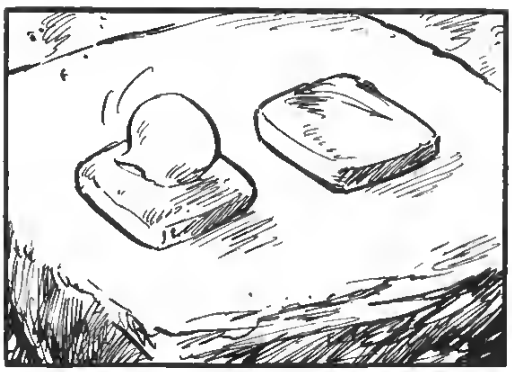
SKSH
KRAKK

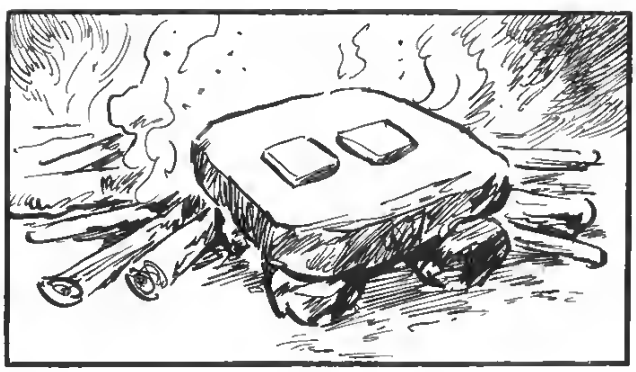
THAM
SKSSH
FMP
FMP
THOK
KRAK
SHRSSSS

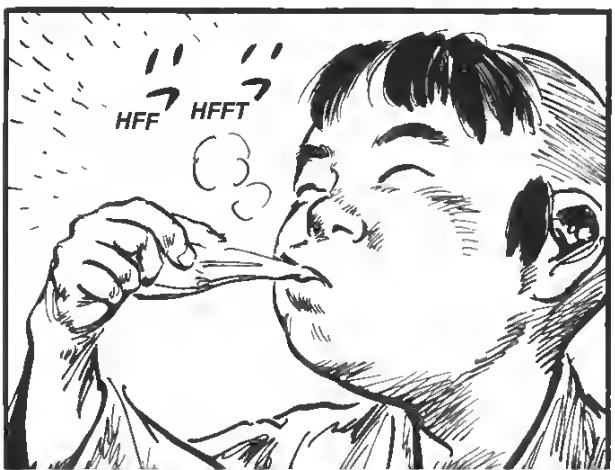


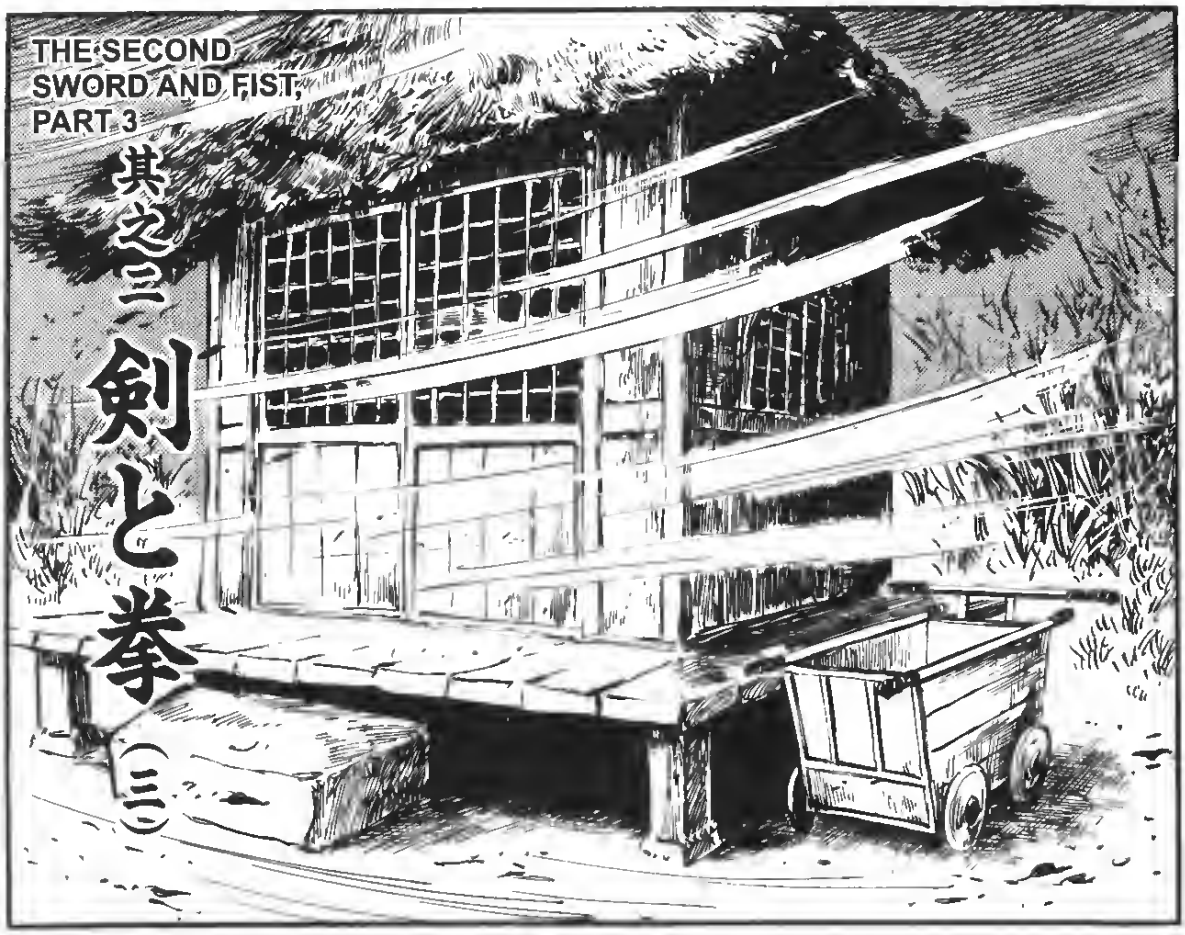
CHESUTOOO!!
ちぇいすとぉー

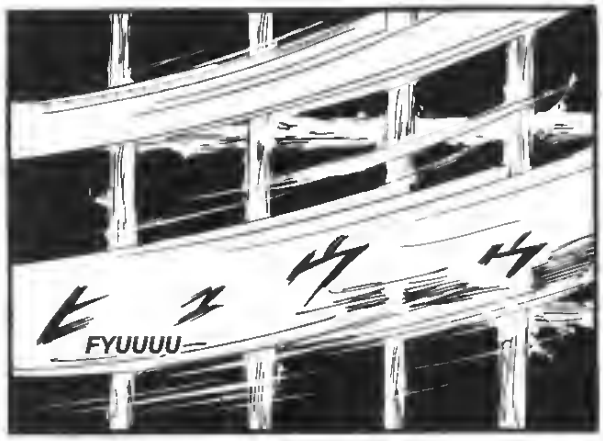
HSST
FWTT
YOKADO!

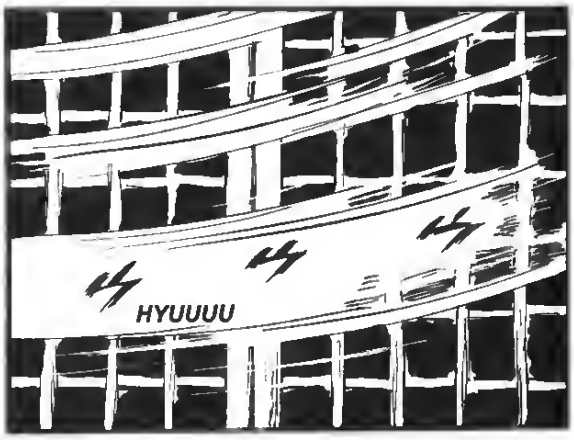


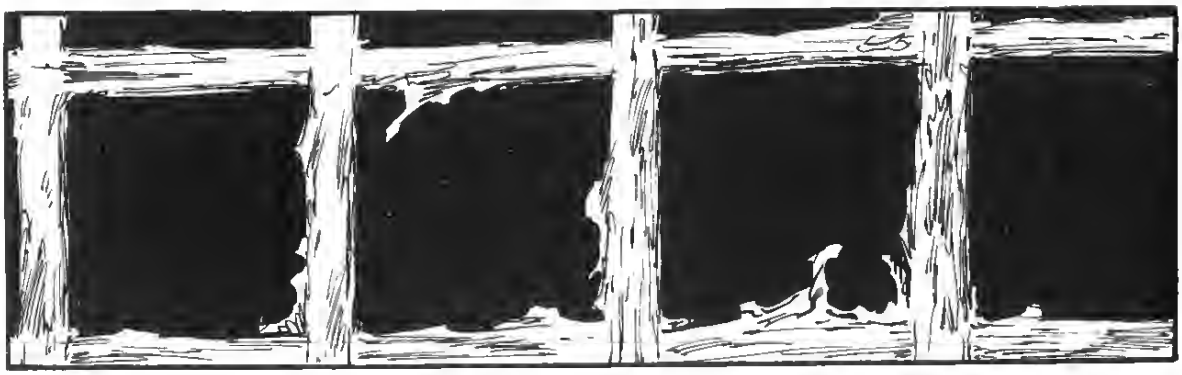


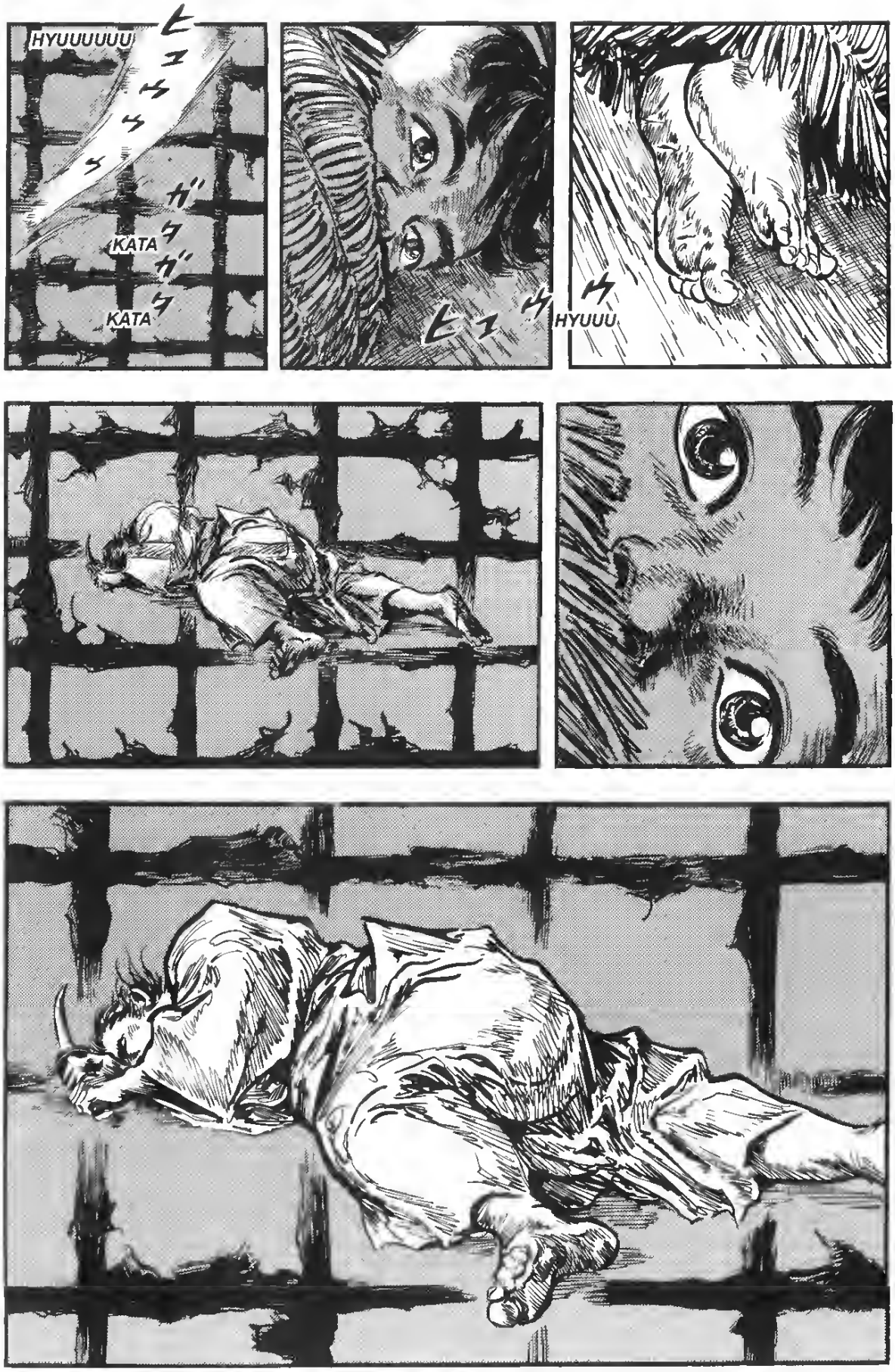

HFF
HFFT


THE SECOND
SWORD AND FIST
PART 3
其之三
剣と拳
(三)


FYUUUU


HYUUUU



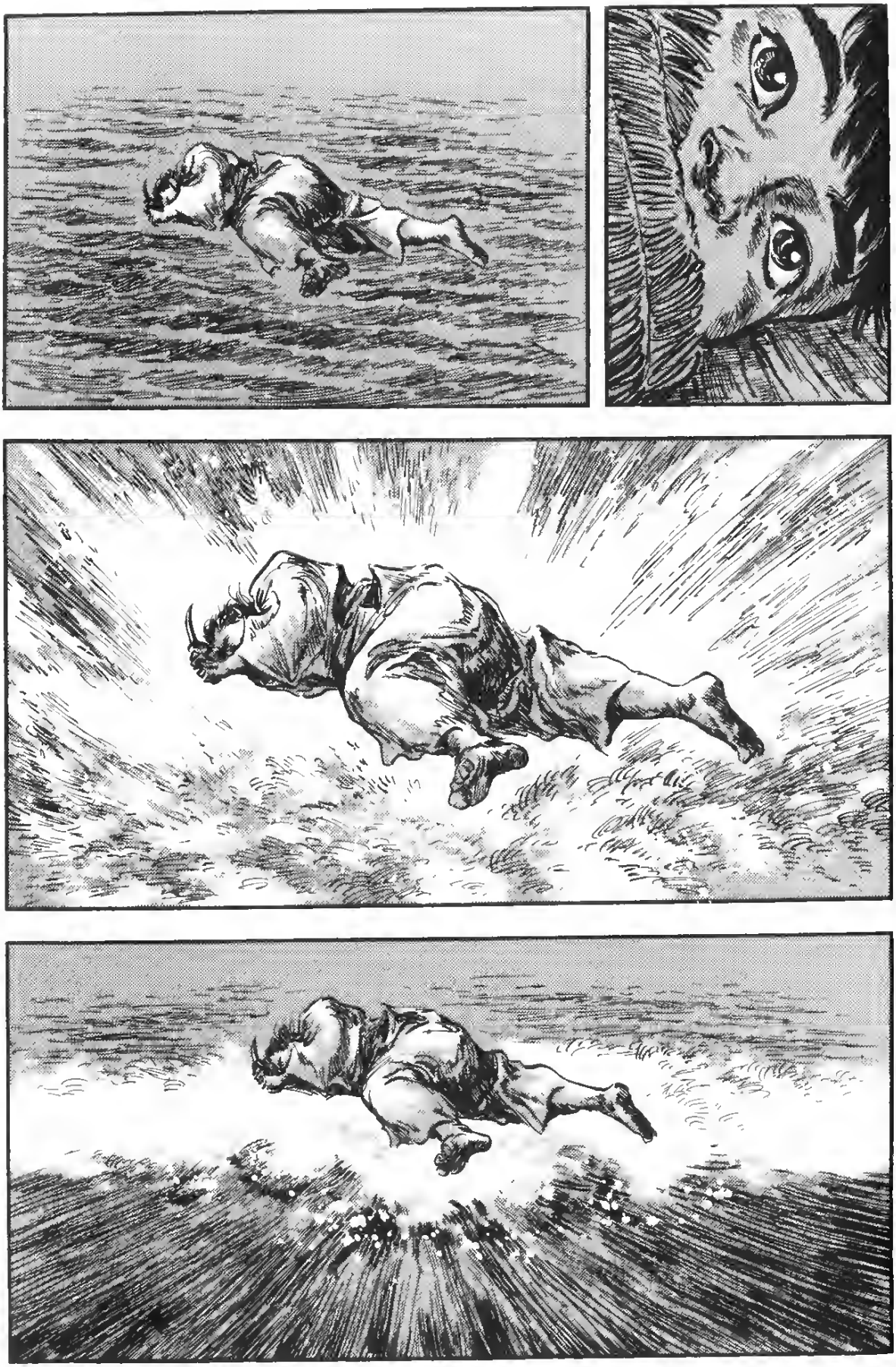

HYUUUUUU
KATA
KATA
HYUUU

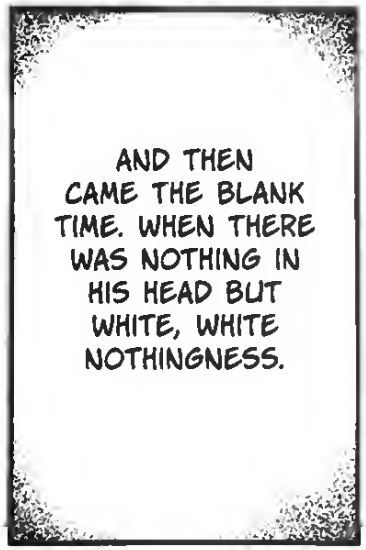
FROM NEXT MORN-ING...

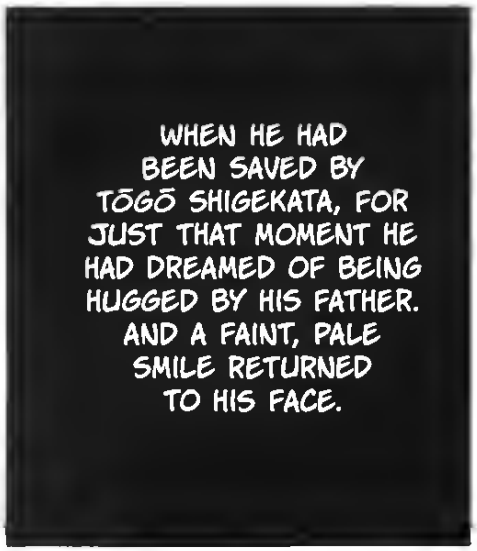
HIS EYES LOCKED ON HIS FATHER'S CORPSE, THE BOY HAD STOOD THROUGH THE FIRST NIGHT'S FALLING.

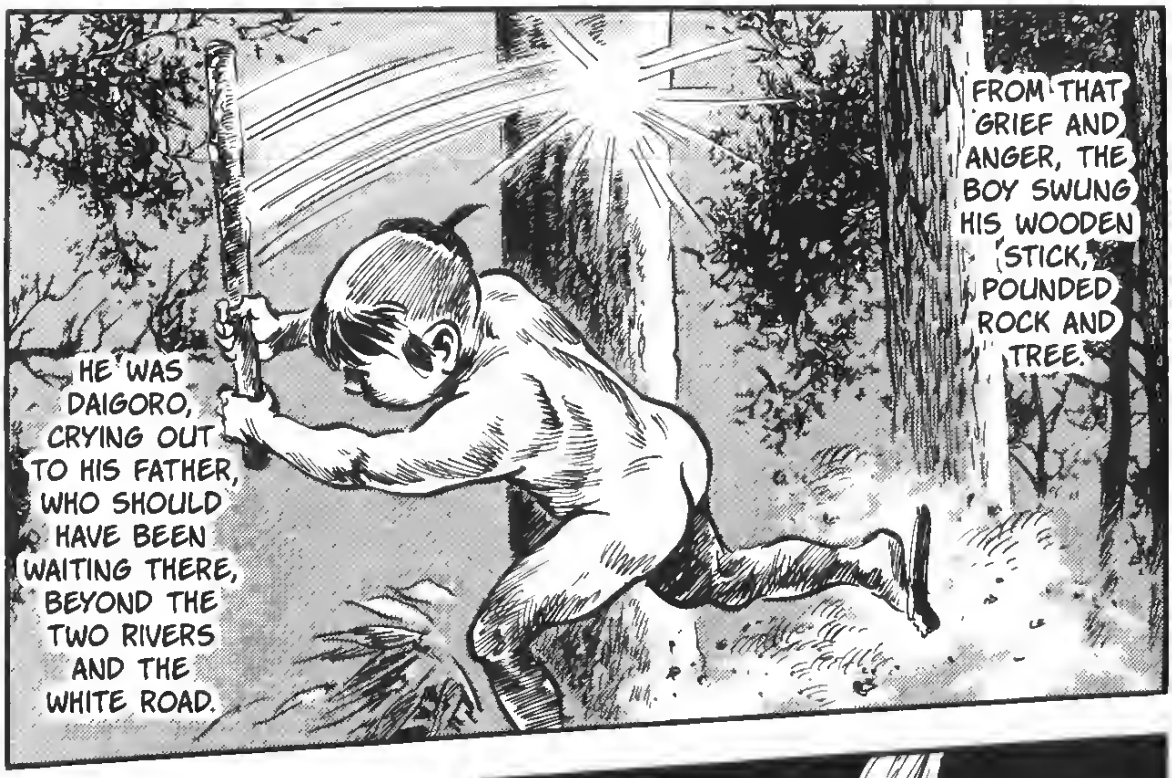
...TO SECOND NIGHT'S COMING, UN-MOVING.

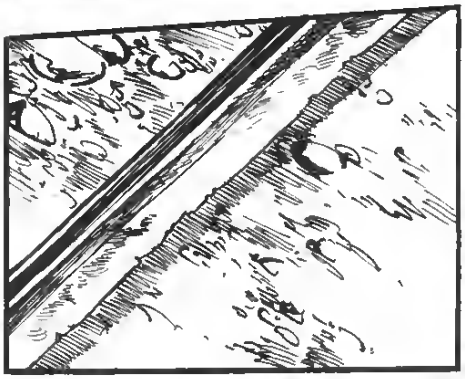
UNTIL FINALLY, TEARS RUN DRY, VOICE GONE, THE LAST OF HIS STRENGTH EBBING AWAY, HE FELL. HE WAS JUST A BOY. NAMED DAIGORO.



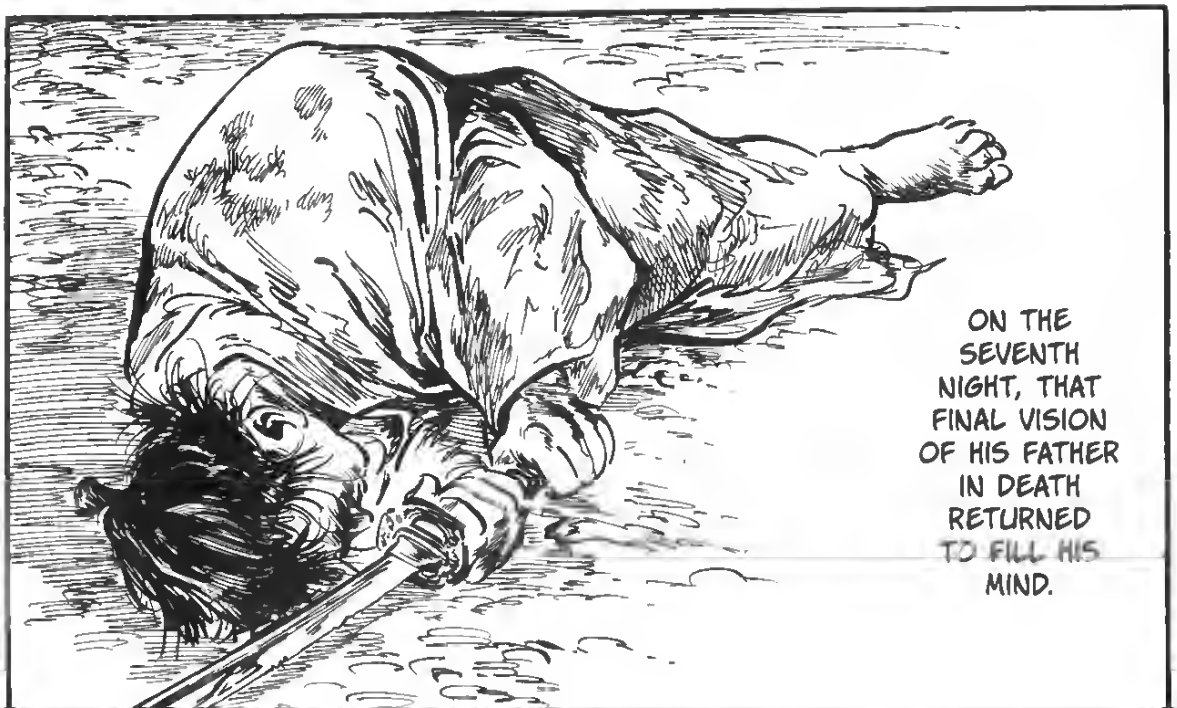

AND THEN CAME THE BLANK TIME. WHEN THERE WAS NOTHING IN HIS HEAD BUT WHITE, WHITE NOTHINGNESS.

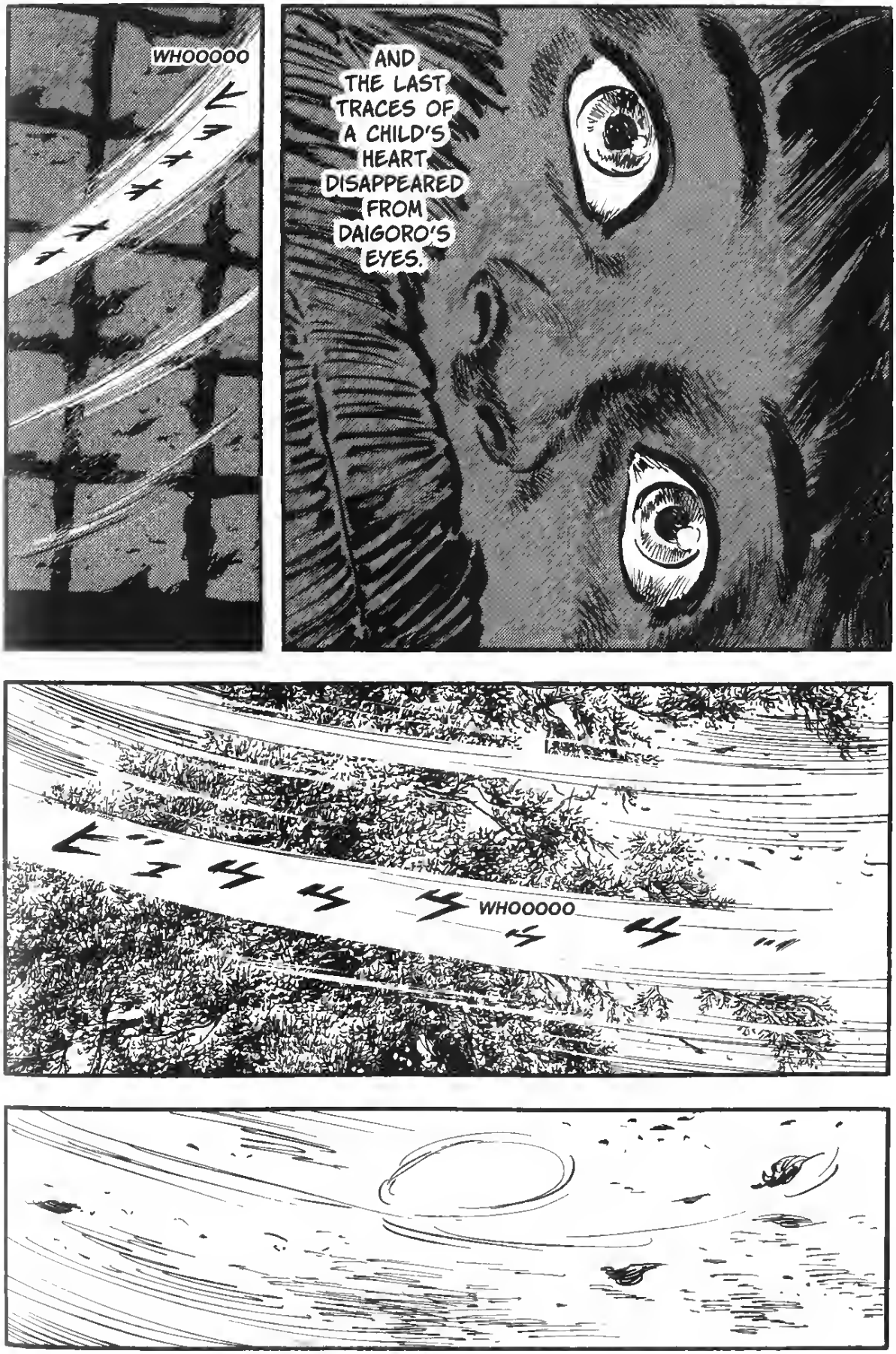

WHEN HE HAD BEEN SAVED BY TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA, FOR JUST THAT MOMENT HE HAD DREAMED OF BEING HUGGED BY HIS FATHER. AND A FAINT, PALE SMILE RETURNED TO HIS FACE.

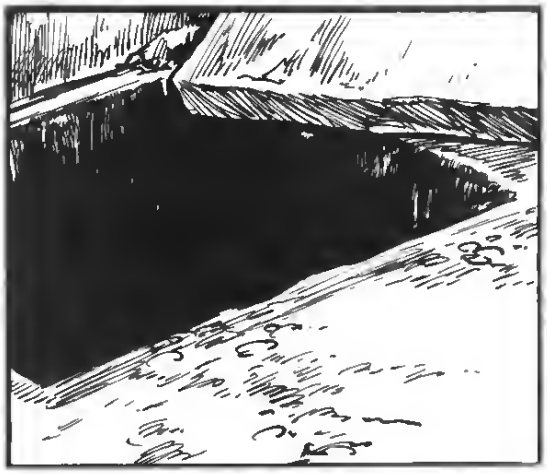

HE WAS DAIGORO, CRYING OUT TO HIS FATHER, WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN WAITING THERE, BEYOND THE TWO RIVERS AND THE WHITE ROAD.
FROM THAT GRIEF AND ANGER, THE BOY SWUNG HIS WOODEN STICK, POUNDED ROCK AND TREE.

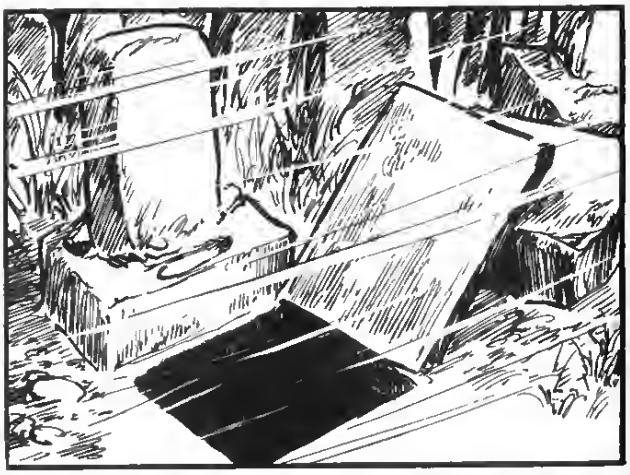


A SINGLE RICE BALL PROFERRED A MOMENT'S PEACE. BUT ONLY A MOMENT'S.


ON THE SEVENTH NIGHT, THAT FINAL VISION OF HIS FATHER IN DEATH RETURNED TO FILL HIS MIND.


WHOOOOO
AND THE LAST TRACES OF A CHILD'S HEART DISAPPEARED FROM DAIGORO'S EYES.
WHOOOOO



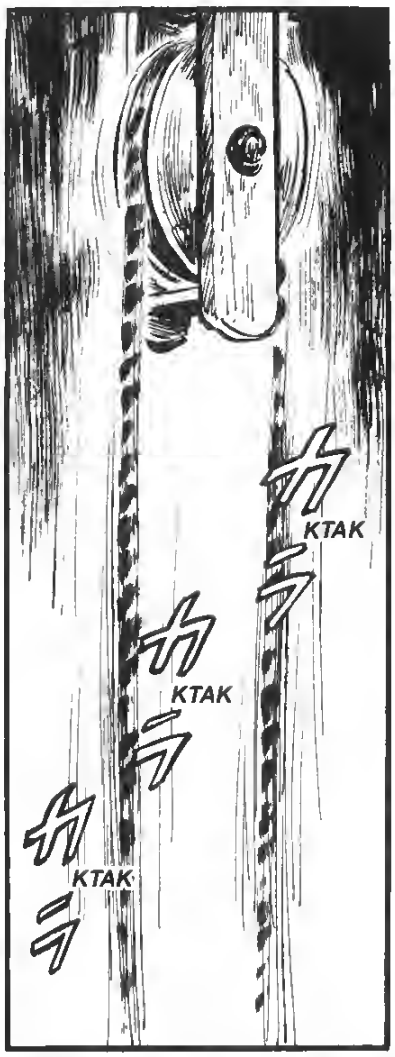


WHOOOO

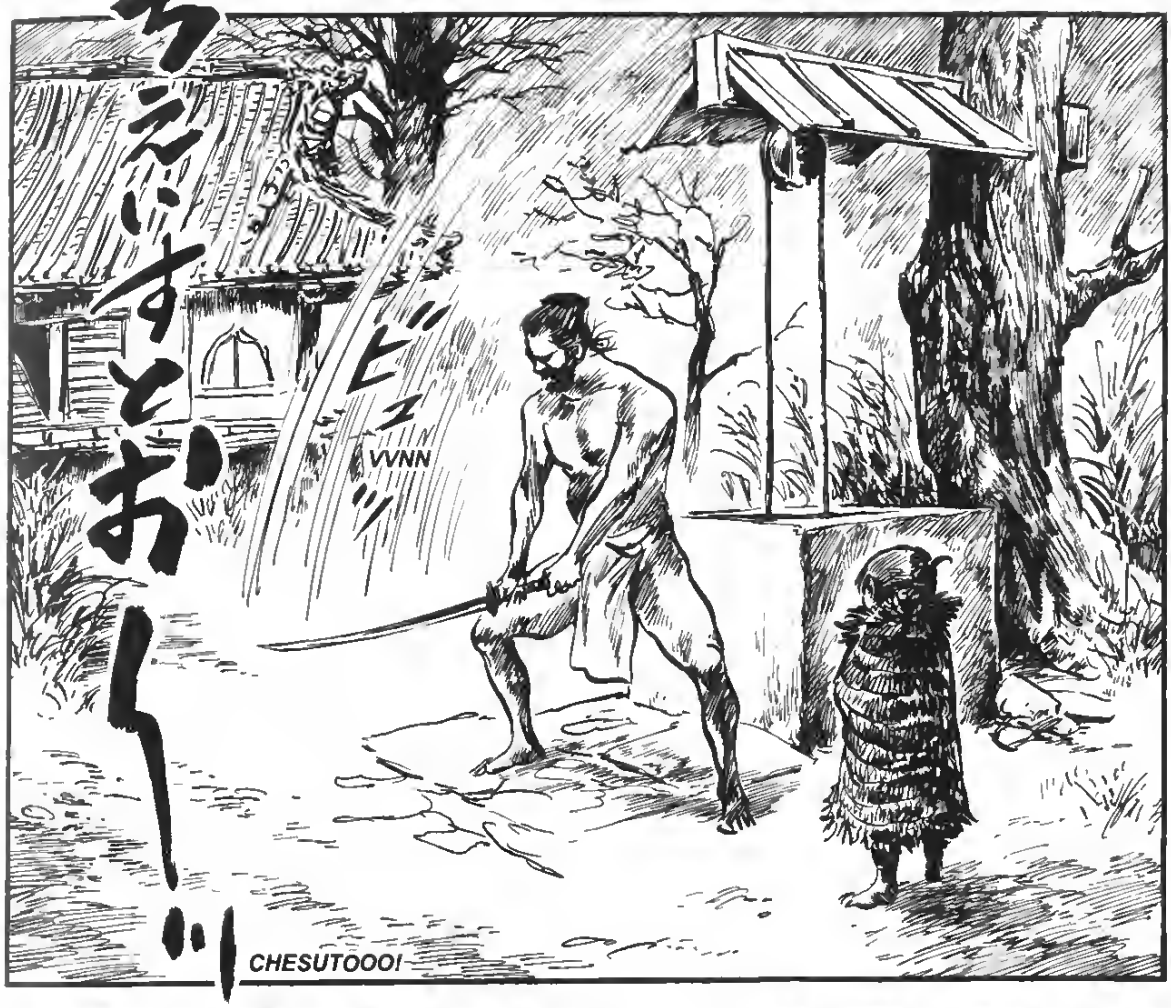
CHATTER
CHATTER

WIND'S RISING. WE NEED A FIRE.
KREAK

SPASSH
H"

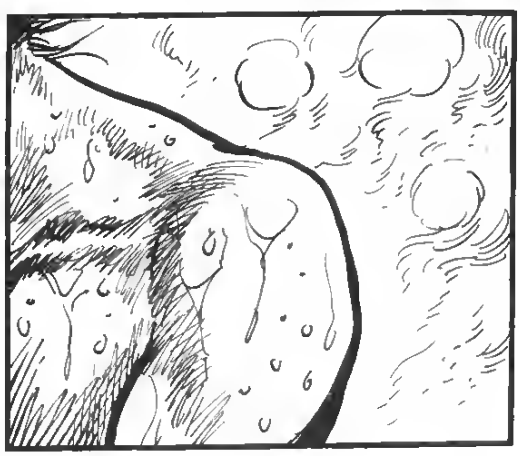

KTAK
KTAK
KTAK

CHESUTOOO!

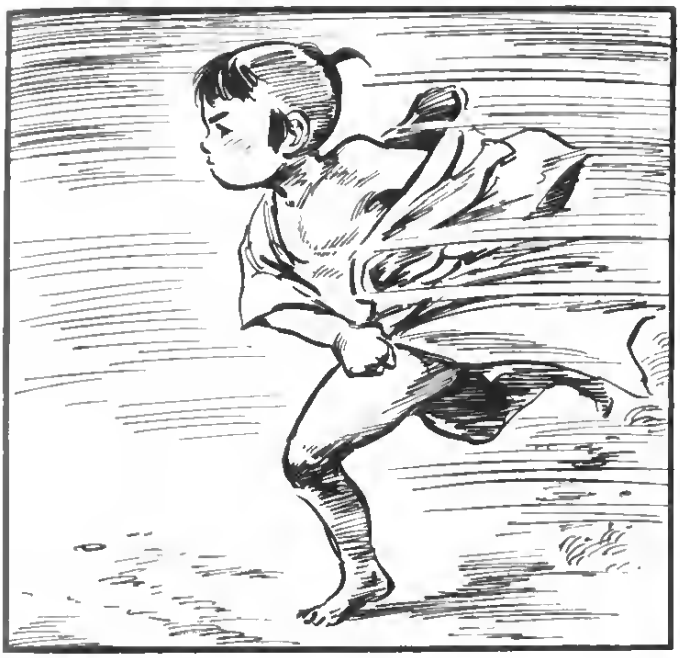

ちぇいすとおー!!
ビィ
VVNN
CHESUTOOO!

ちぇいすとおー!!
CHESUTOOO!

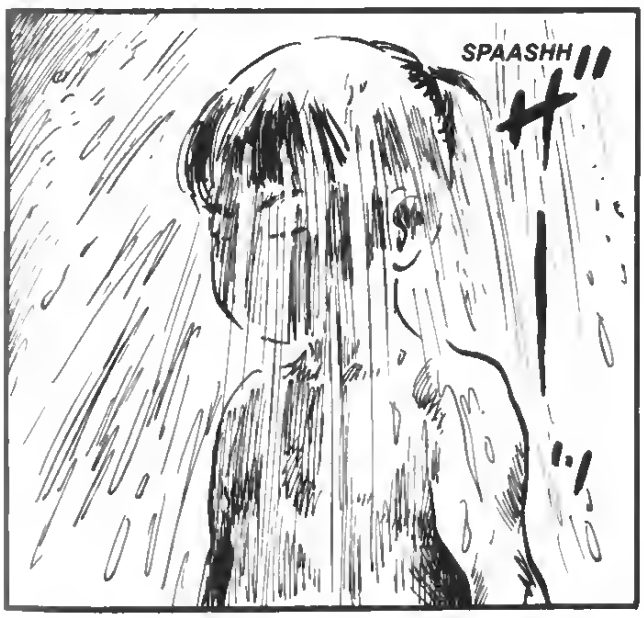
ザ
SPA'ASH
SETS FROZEN HEARTS AFLAME!
WATER LIGHTS A FIRE IN OUR BODIES WE CALL HEAT.

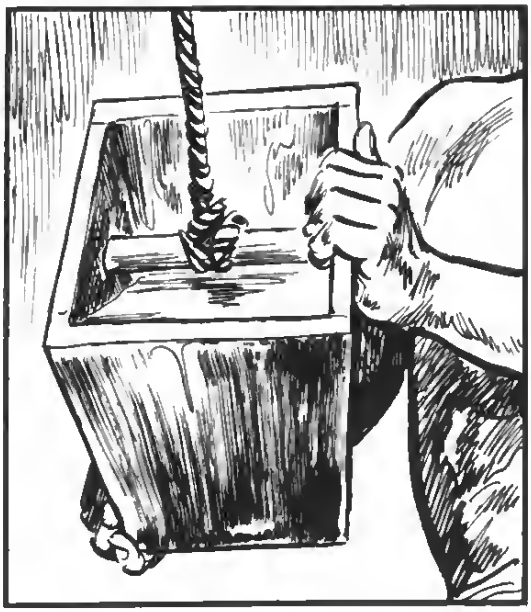


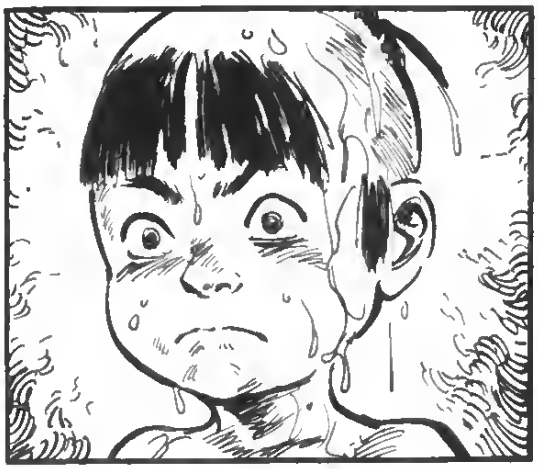
ちぇすとおー
CHESUTOOO!
SATSUMA MEN ARE MEN OF *FIRE!* PEOPLE CALL THEM *OMANSA* IN RESPECT!
IF *YOU* WANT TO BE CALLED *OMANSA*, POUR IT *ON!*



FWPP

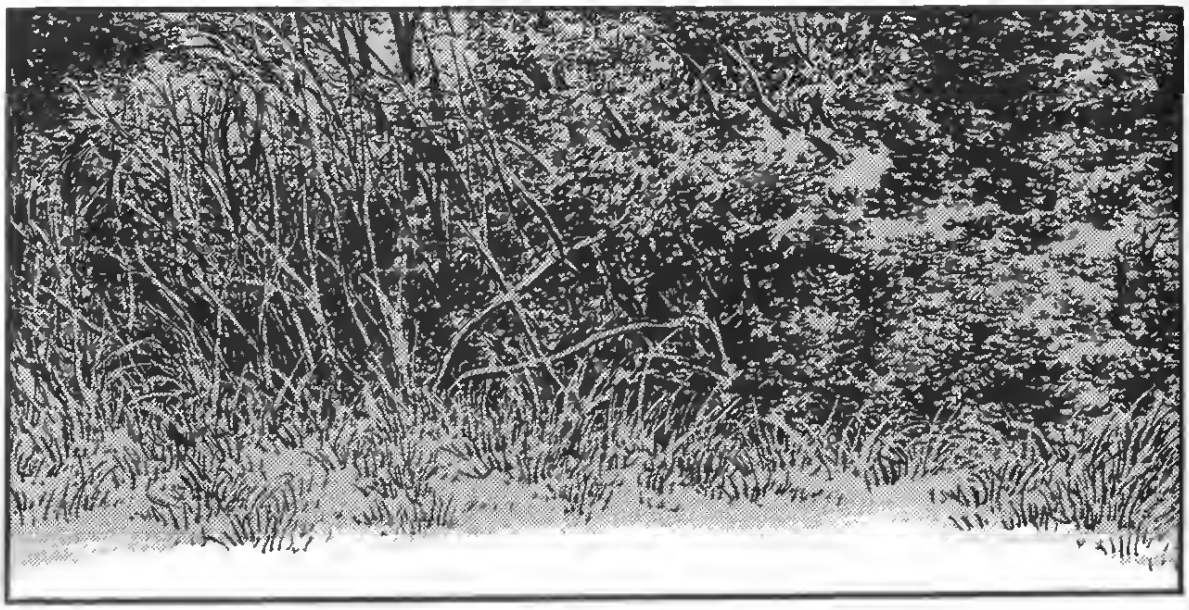

SPAASHH

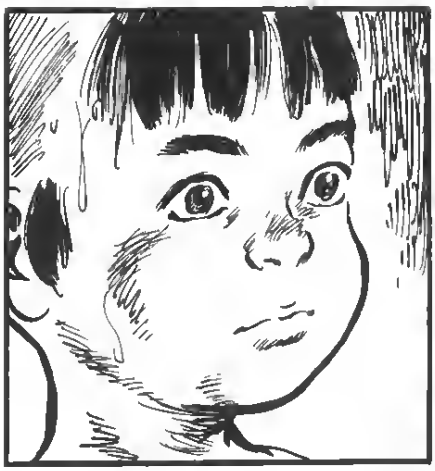


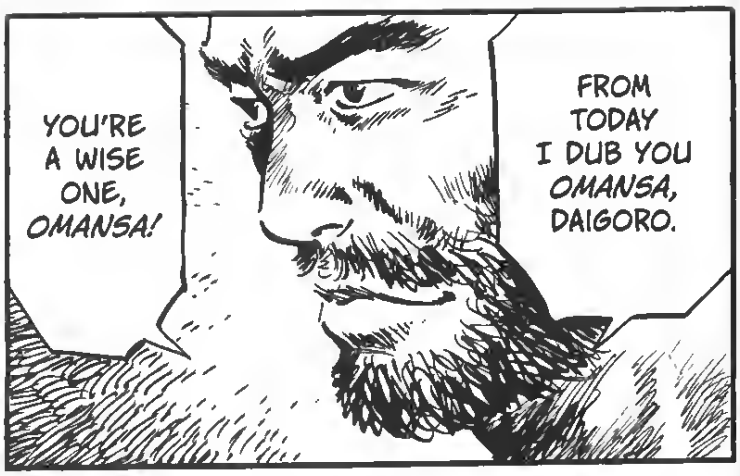


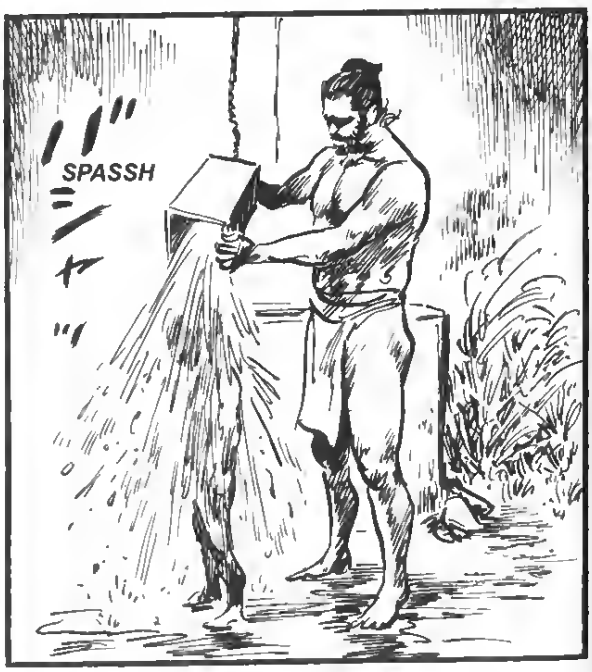
ちゃ
あ
あ
PAPAAAA!!

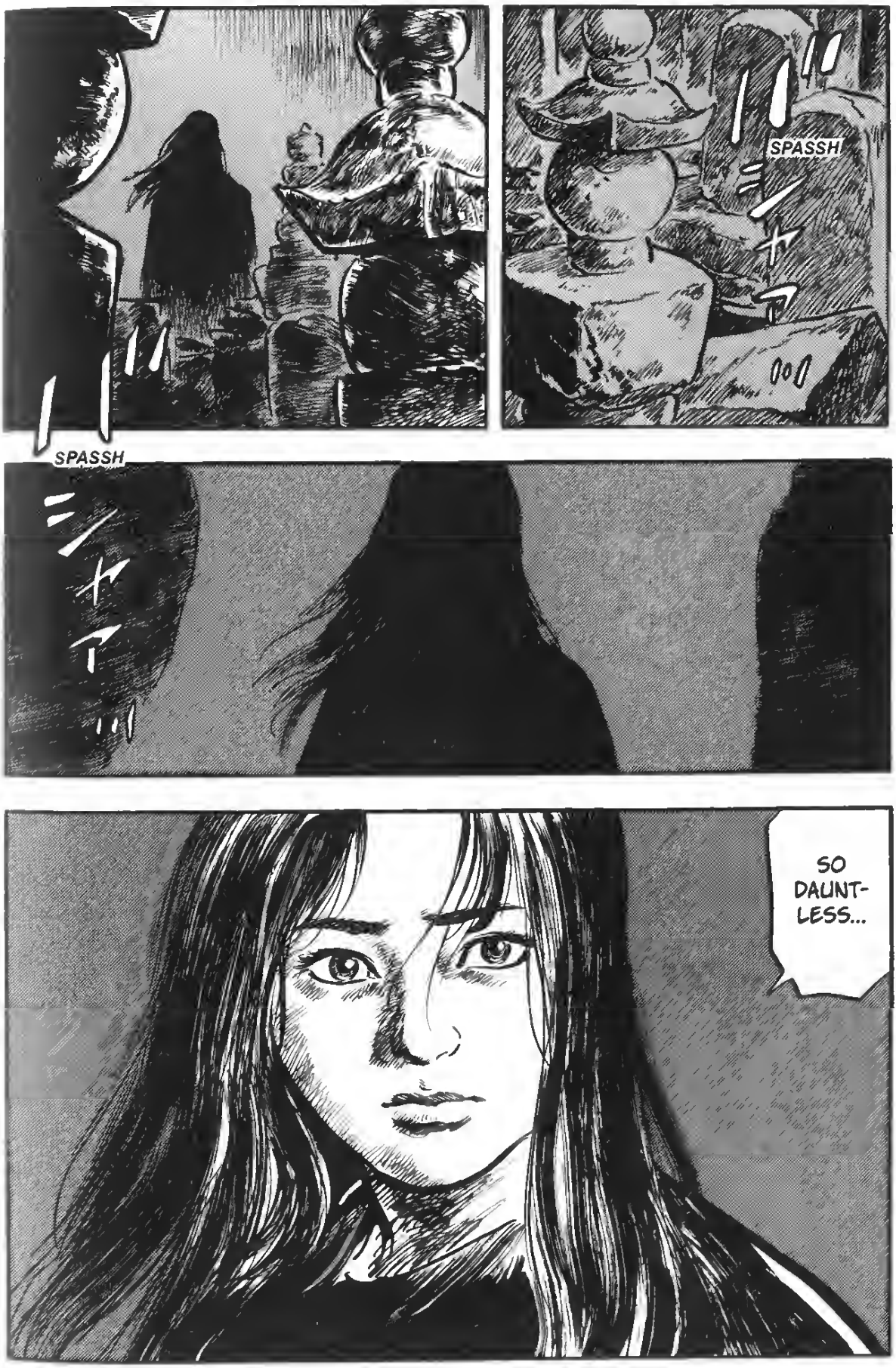
ちゃあ
PAPAAAA!!

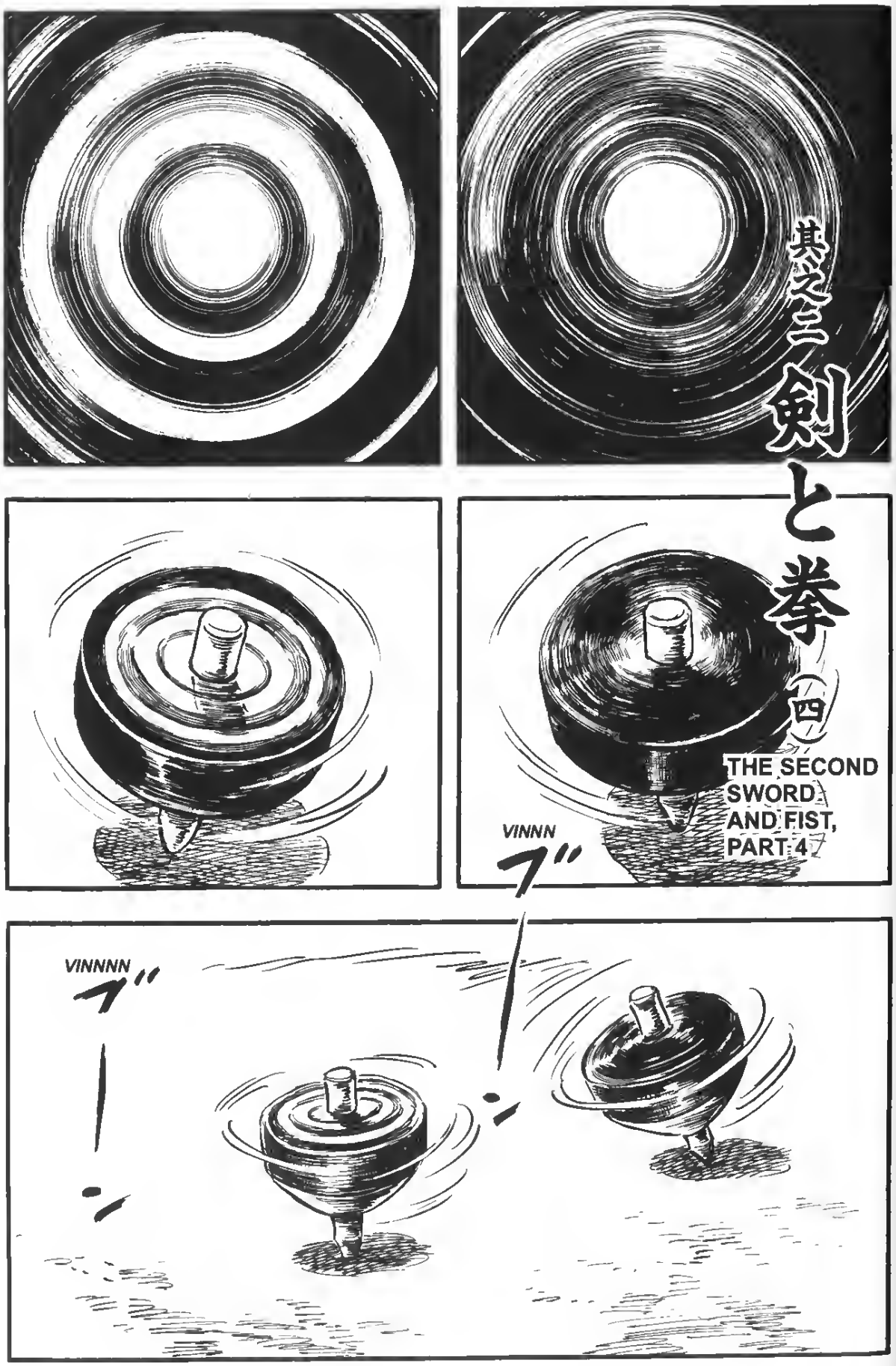


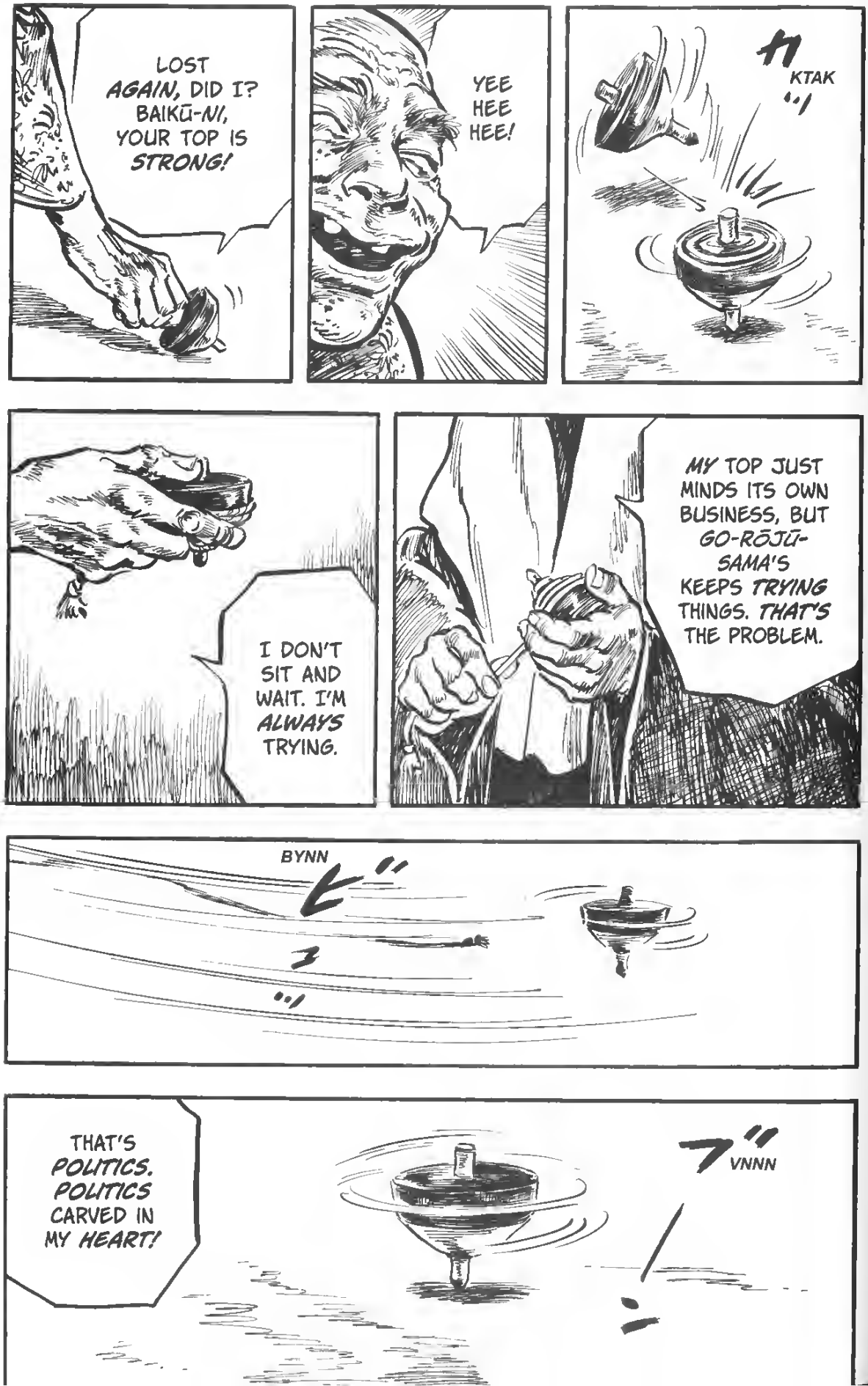



YOU'RE A WISE ONE, OMANSA!
FROM TODAY I DUB YOU OMANSA, DAIGORO.

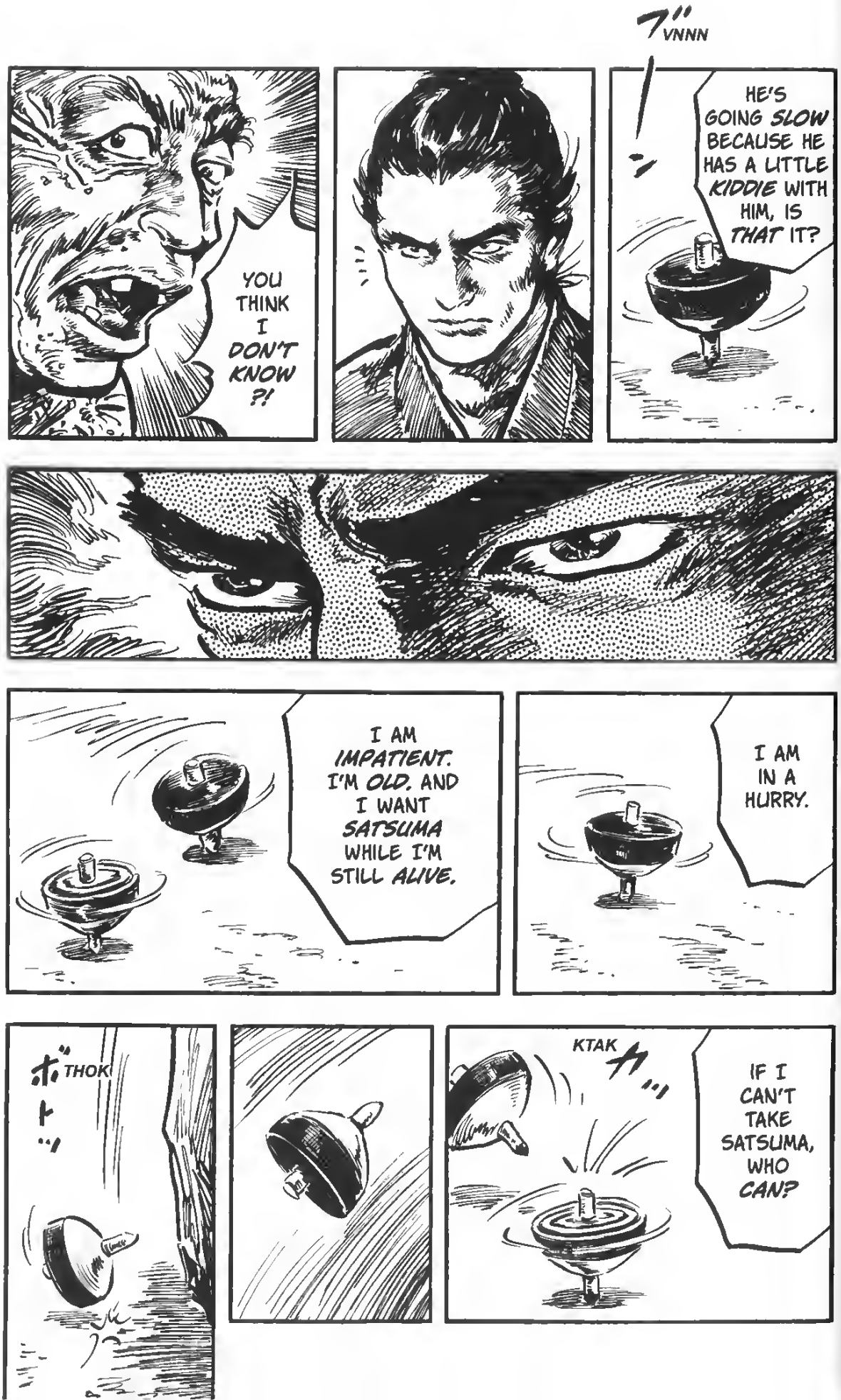

SPASSH

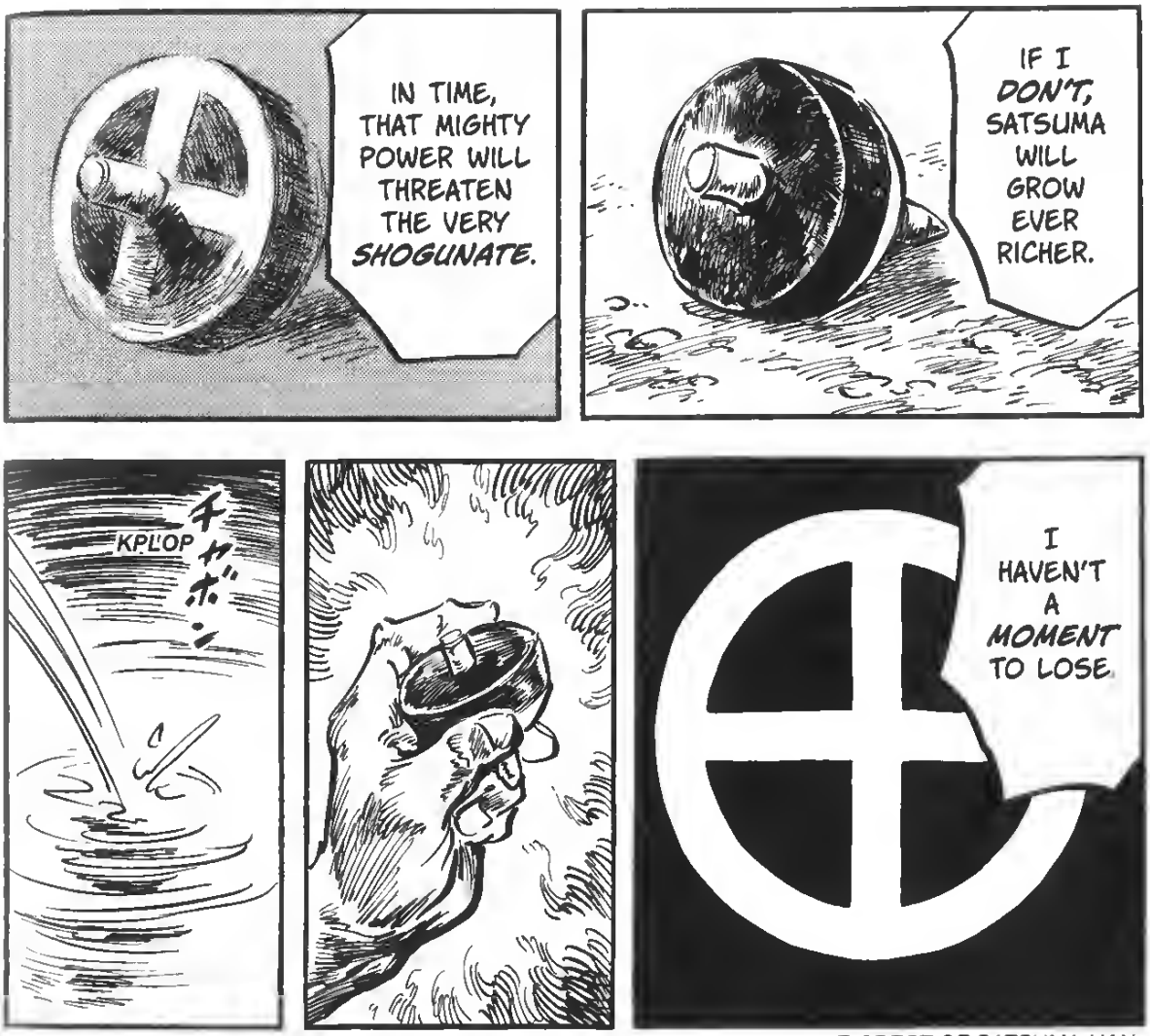

SPASSH
SPASSH
SO DAUNT-LESS...


其之二 剣と拳 (四)
THE SECOND SWORD AND FIST, PART 4
VINNN
VINNNN

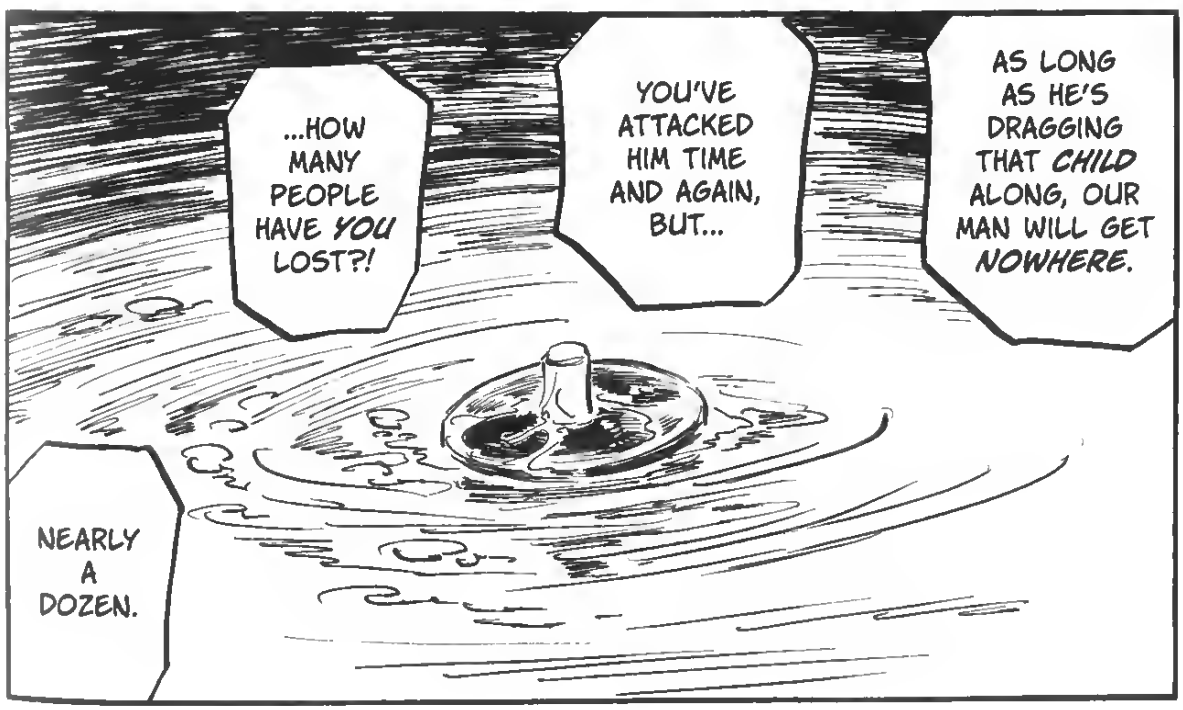

LOST AGAIN, DID I? BAIKŪ-NI, YOUR TOP IS STRONG!
YEE HEE HEE!
KTAK
I DON'T SIT AND WAIT. I'M ALWAYS TRYING.
MY TOP JUST MINDS ITS OWN BUSINESS, BUT GO-RŌJŪ-SAMA'S KEEPS TRYING THINGS. THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
BYNN
THAT'S POLITICS. POLITICS CARVED IN MY HEART!
VNNN

BYNN
ALL WE DO IS WAIT. WAIT, AND SEIZE ON OUR OPPONENT'S KYO.
KTAK
ANZŌ.
VNNN
HE IS ON HIS WAY. HOW-EVER...
IS THAT SWORDSMAN OF YOURS RUSHING TO SATSUMA?
HERE, MY LORD.


YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW ?!
VNNN
HE'S GOING SLOW BECAUSE HE HAS A LITTLE KIDDIE WITH HIM, IS THAT IT?
I AM IMPATIENT. I'M OLD. AND I WANT SATSUMA WHILE I'M STILL ALIVE.
I AM IN A HURRY.
THOK
KTAK
IF I CAN'T TAKE SATSUMA, WHO CAN?


IN TIME, THAT MIGHTY POWER WILL THREATEN THE VERY SHOGUNATE.
IF I DON'T, SATSUMA WILL GROW EVER RICHER.
KPLOP
チャポン
I HAVEN'T A MOMENT TO LOSE.

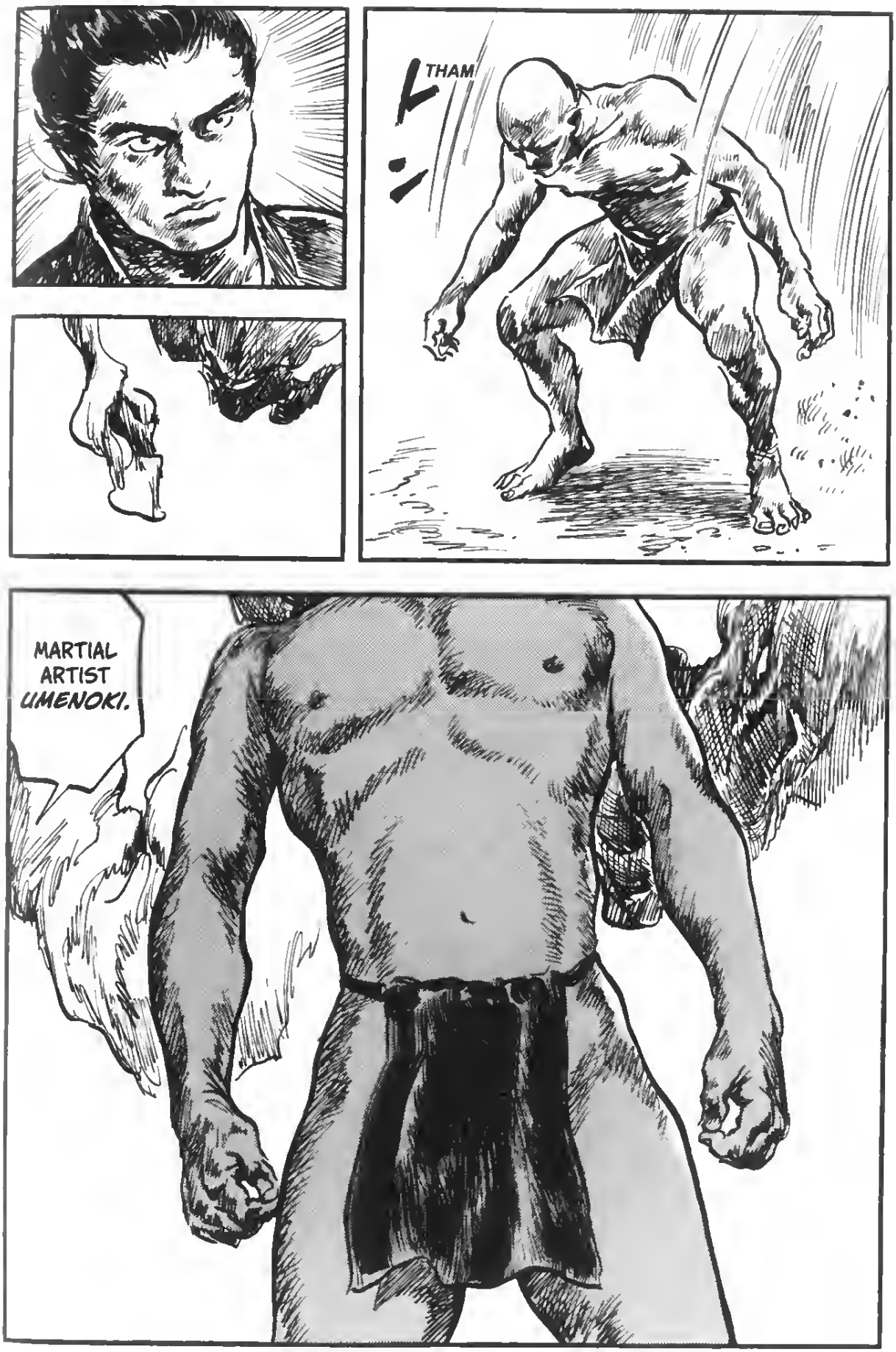
ON ARMOR: THE CREST OF SATSUMA *HAN*.


...HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE YOU LOST?!
YOU'VE ATTACKED HIM TIME AND AGAIN, BUT...
AS LONG AS HE'S DRAGGING THAT CHILD ALONG, OUR MAN WILL GET NOWHERE.
NEARLY A DOZEN.

BYNN
TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA. HE'S PERFECTED A SWORD STYLE CALLED JIGEN-RYŪ.
HE'S STRONG! WHAT'S OUR WARRIOR'S NAME?
HIS NAME IS ...DAIGORO.
VNNN
VNNN
SOUNDS LIKE THE PERFECT MAN FOR THE JOB. AND THE BOY?
ŌGAMI ITTŌ'S BOY?! A WOLF CHILD!
VNNN

NO POINT FIGHTING THE SAME WAY OVER AND OVER.
KILL HIM. IMMEDIATELY! THAT'LL PUT A SPRING IN TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA'S STEP!
コロコロ…
TNK
TNK
THOK
FWKK
THIS WAY, I WIN!
YOU SHOULD MEET BAIKŪ-NI.
HO
HO
HO
HO

F.WASSH
ぶわ
ぃ

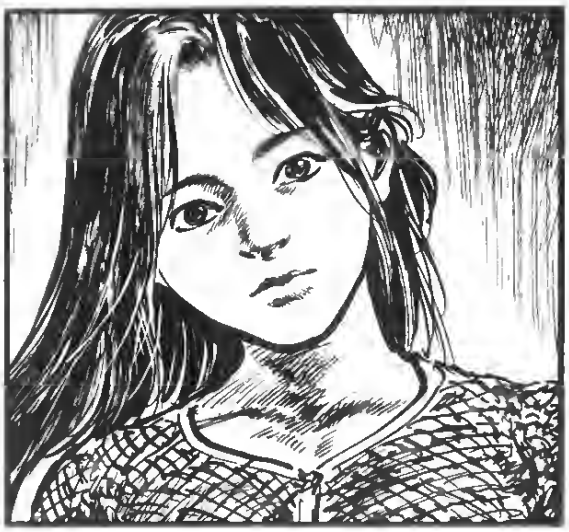

THAM
MARTIAL ARTIST UMENOKI.

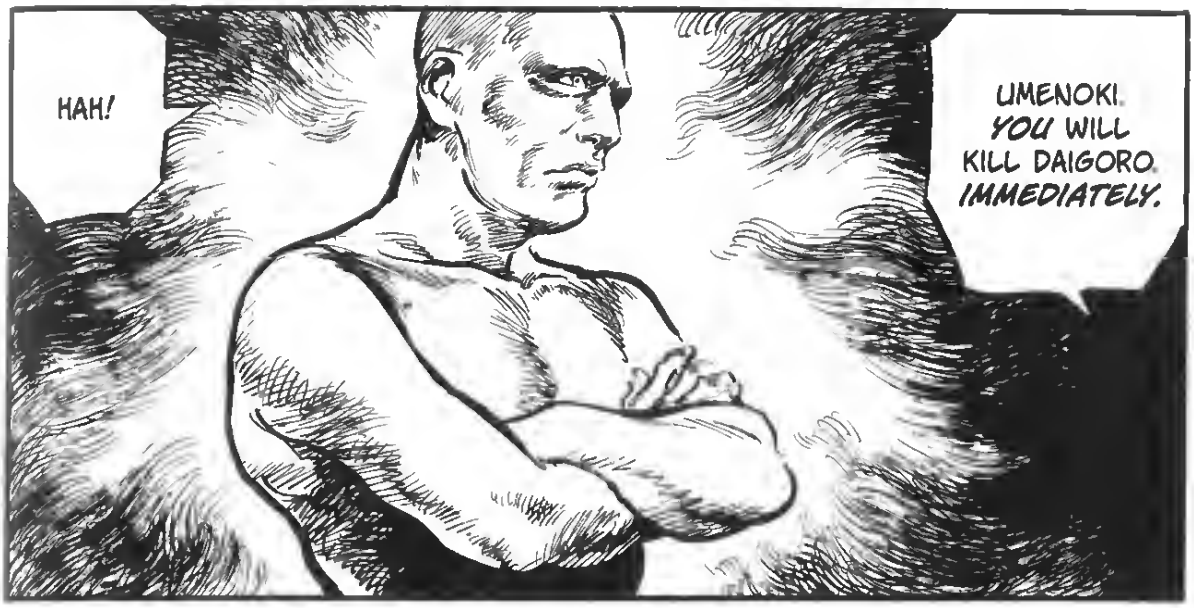
THIS IS HATTORI ANZŌ, LEADER OF THE SHŌGUN'S TANSAKUNIN. ALSO CALLED TAKEHIME.

AT DAWN OF THE DAY THIS IS OVER, I'LL SEE YOU TWO CONSUMMATED! THE NEW CORNERSTONE GUARDING THE SHOGUNATE!
SHOW HIM THE REAL YOU, ANZŌ.

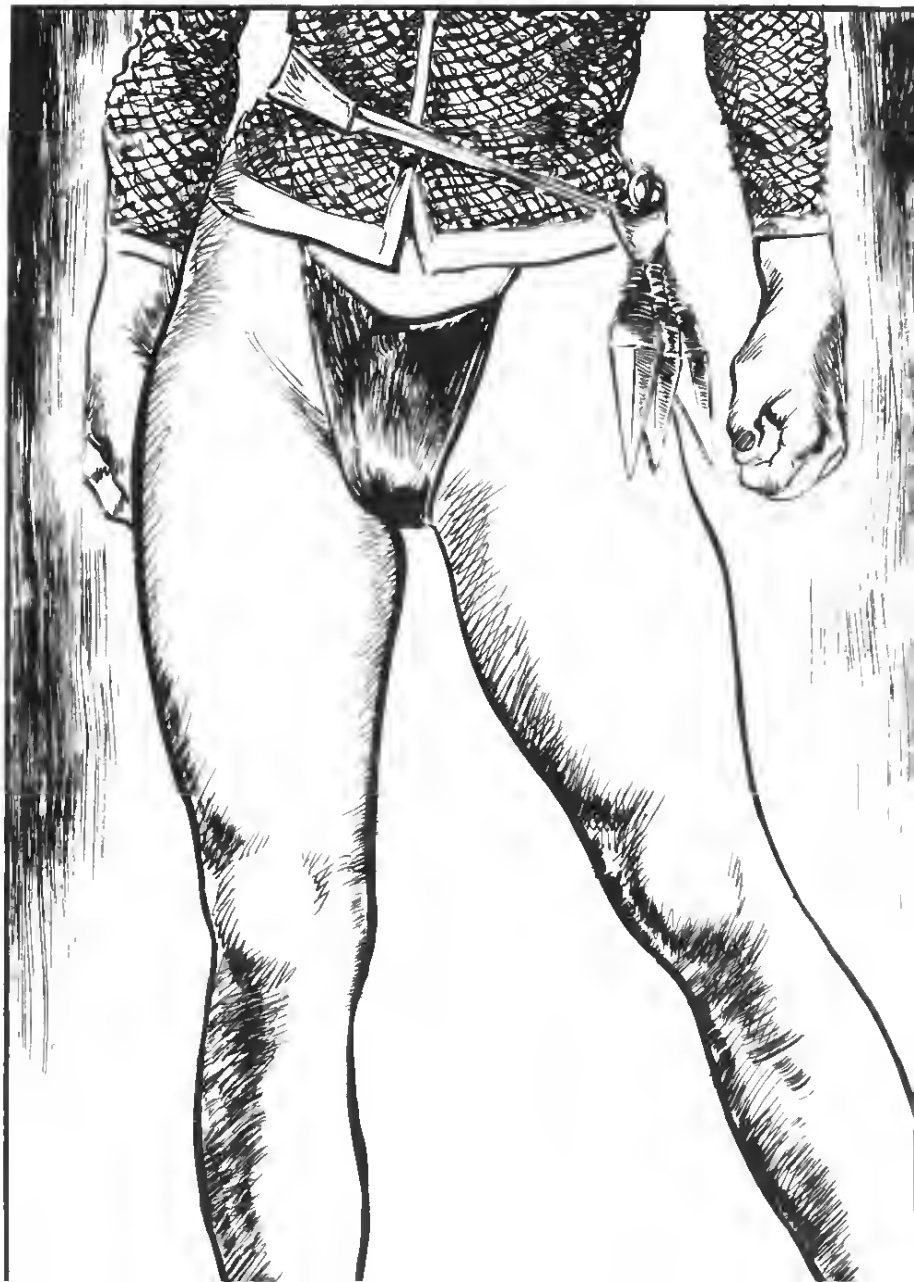
WSHH

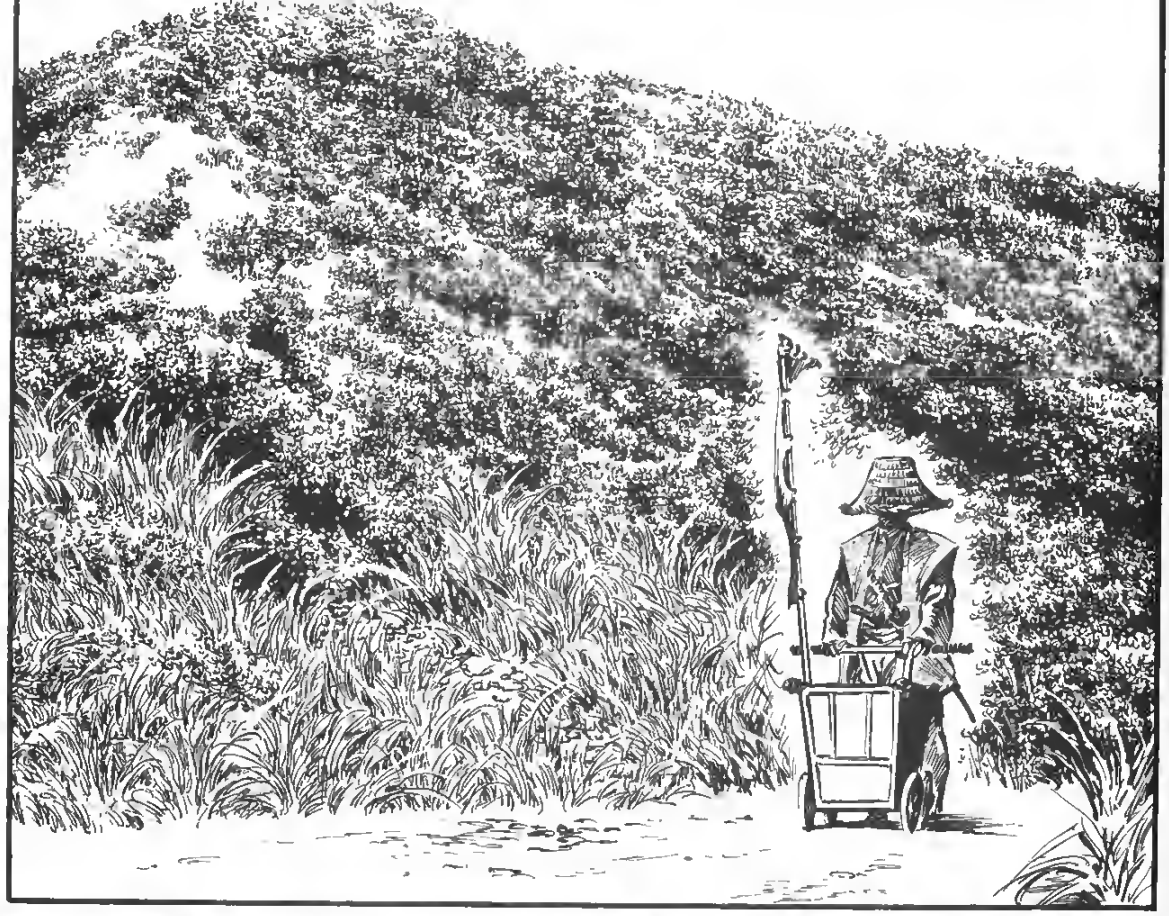
TAKEHIME ALSO LEADS THE *NIWABAN* PROTECTING THE HEART OF EDO CASTLE. ALL OF THEM ARE *WOMEN.*
CAN'T VERY WELL GUARD THE *ŌOKU* WITHOUT USING *KUNOICHI,* CAN WE?
SO OUR *TAKEHIME* NEEDS *TWO* FACES. HER OTHER FACE IS ANZŌ.
LIKE *YOU,* A "MASTER" OF DISGUISE.




HAH!
UMENOKI. YOU WILL KILL DAIGORO. IMMEDIATELY.

TAKEHIME. YOU SEPARATE THE BOY FROM TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA!
USE YOUR PEOPLE TO BREAK THEM APART.





GARA
GARA
ガラ
ガラ

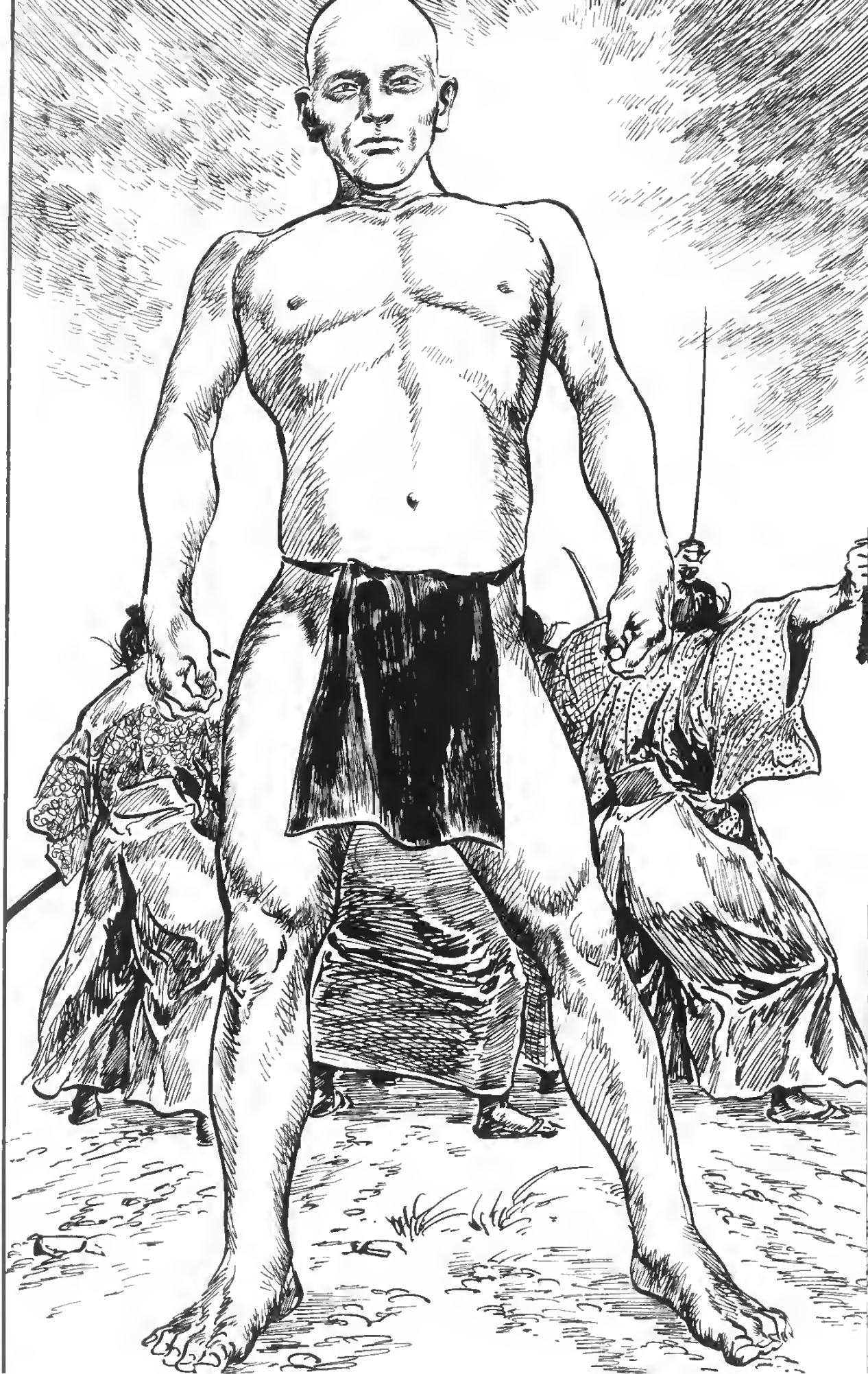
一撃指南
ICHIGEKI SHINAN (ONE-STRIKE SWORD TRAINING)

AIIEEEEE!!
ギャアア

AIIIIIIIEEEI

THD
THD
HRNG
!!
FWWT
FWWT

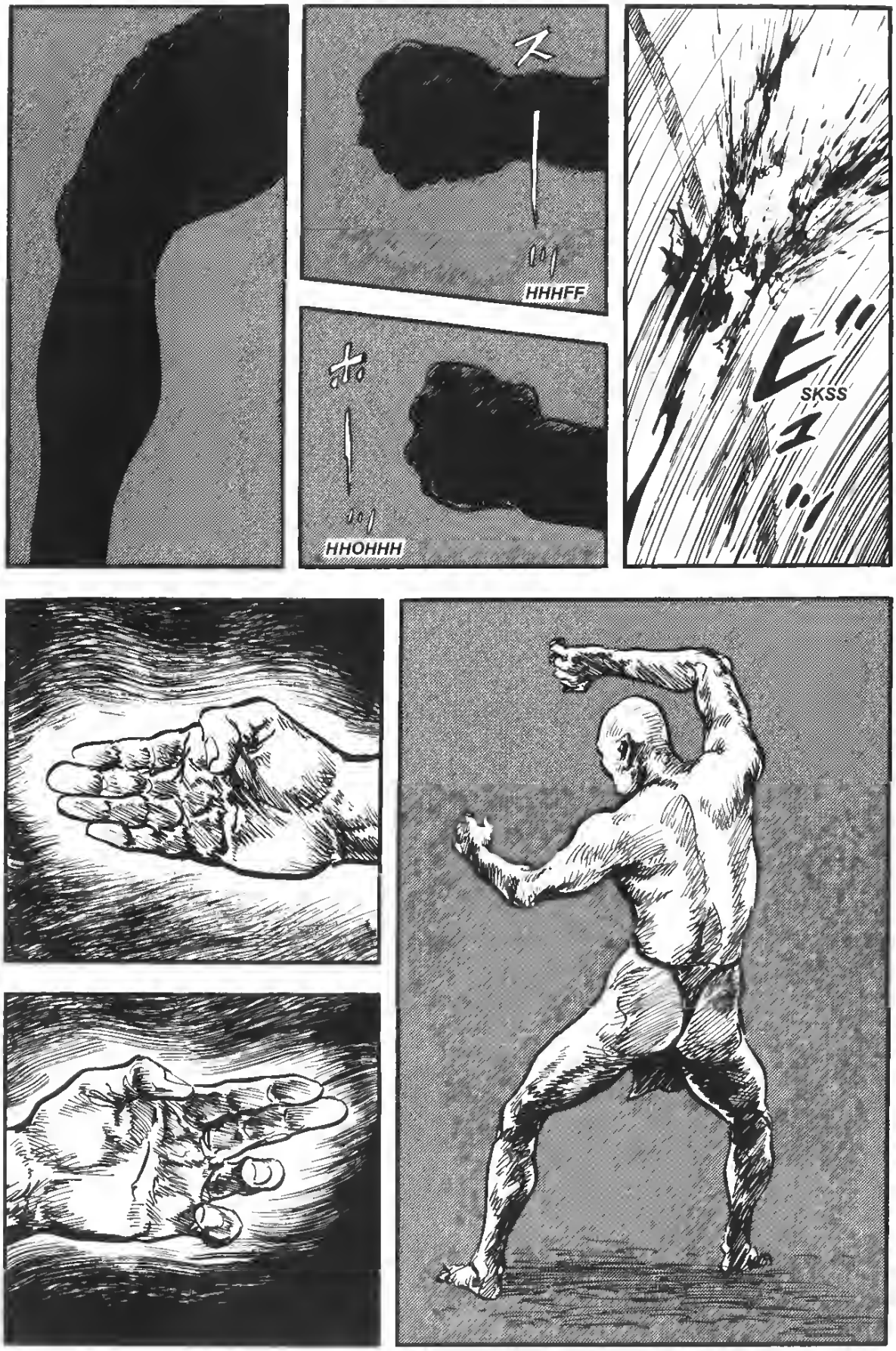
BWOM
THAM

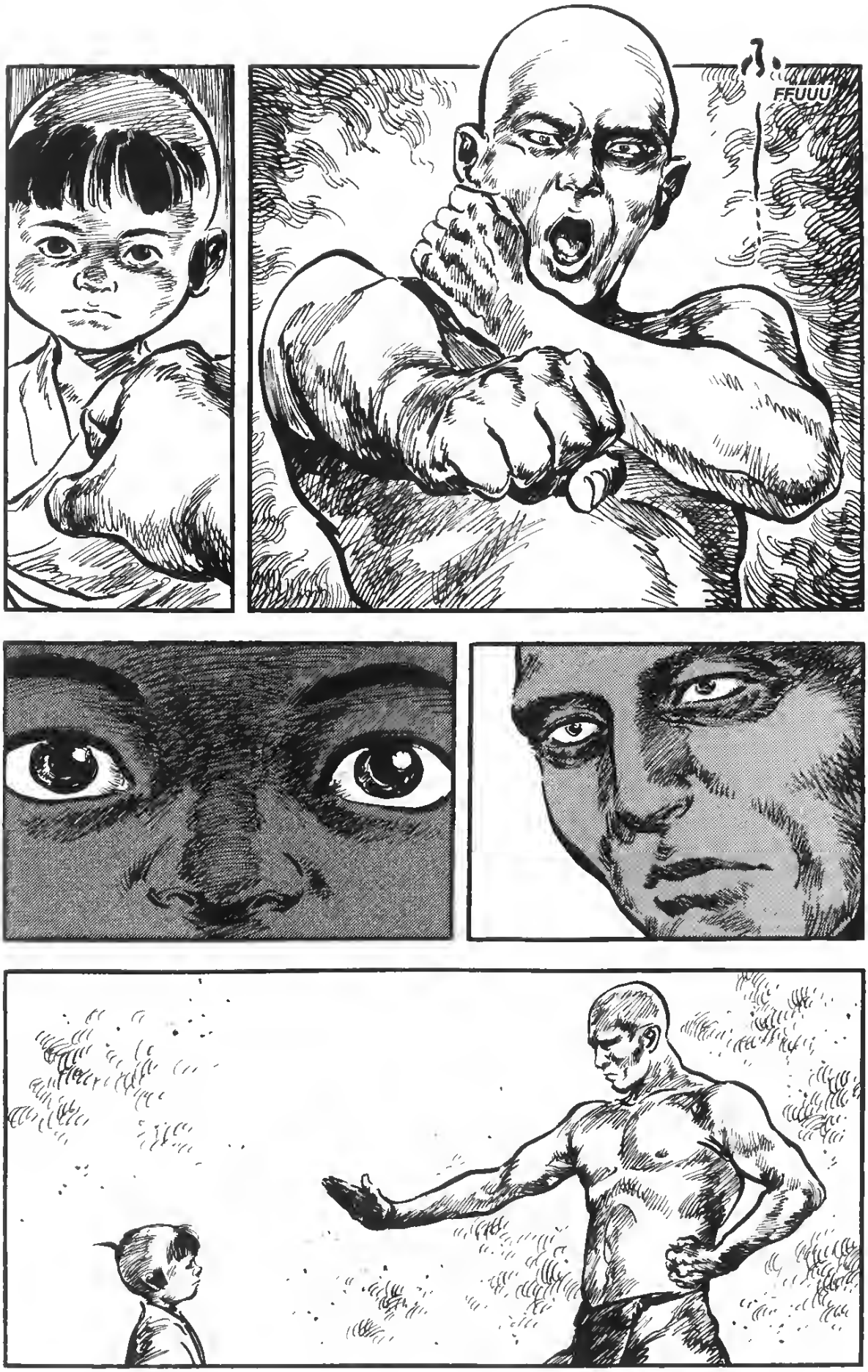


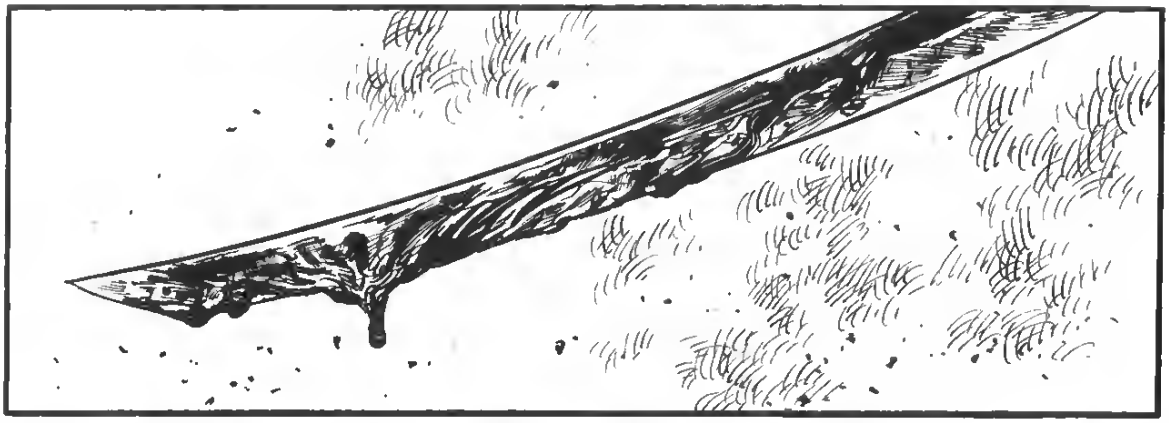
SHNNG
GSSHH
SKSHH
其之二 剣と拳 五
THE SECOND SWORD AND FIST, PART 5
DAIGO-ROOO!!

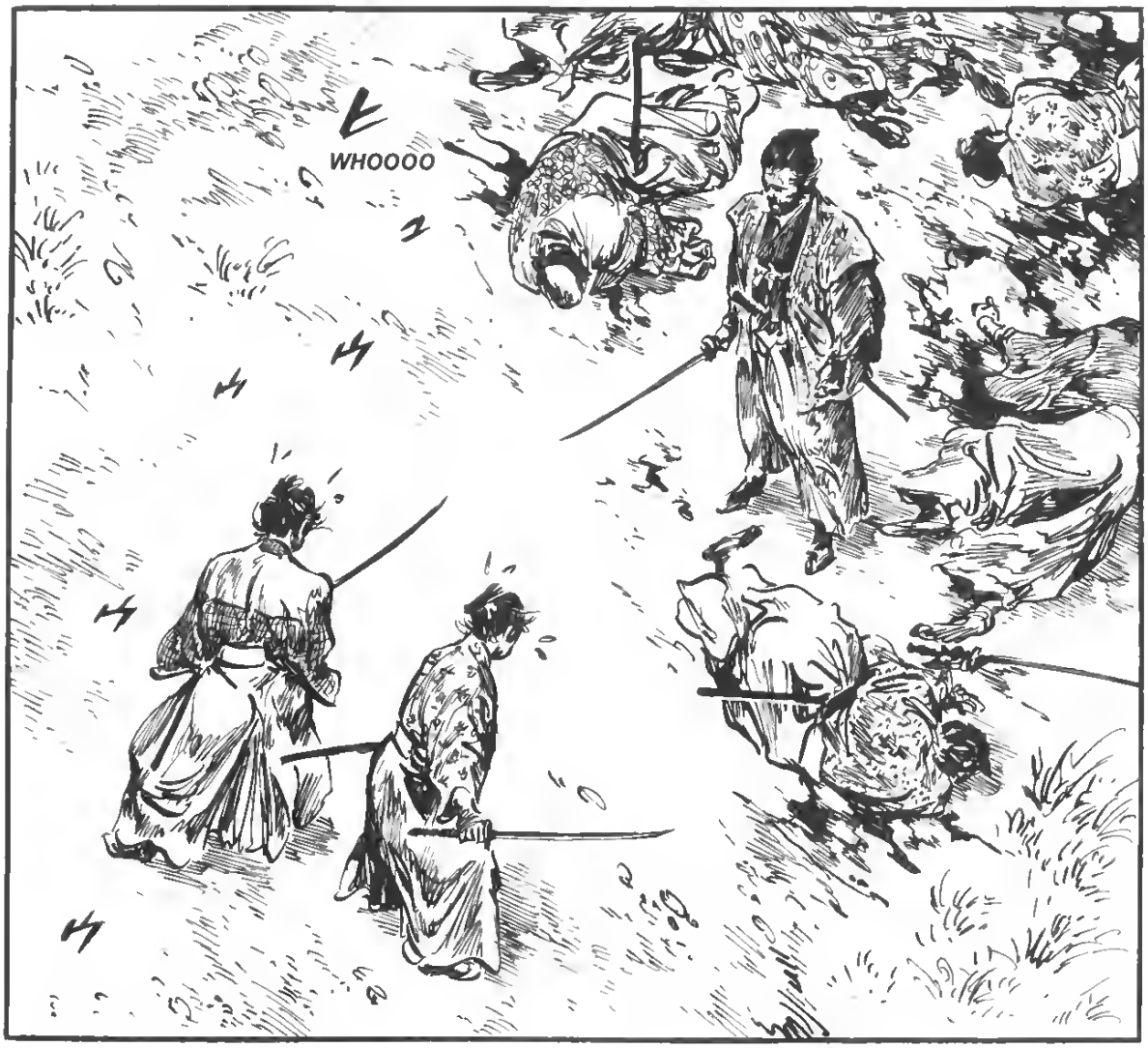
SKSHH
KNG

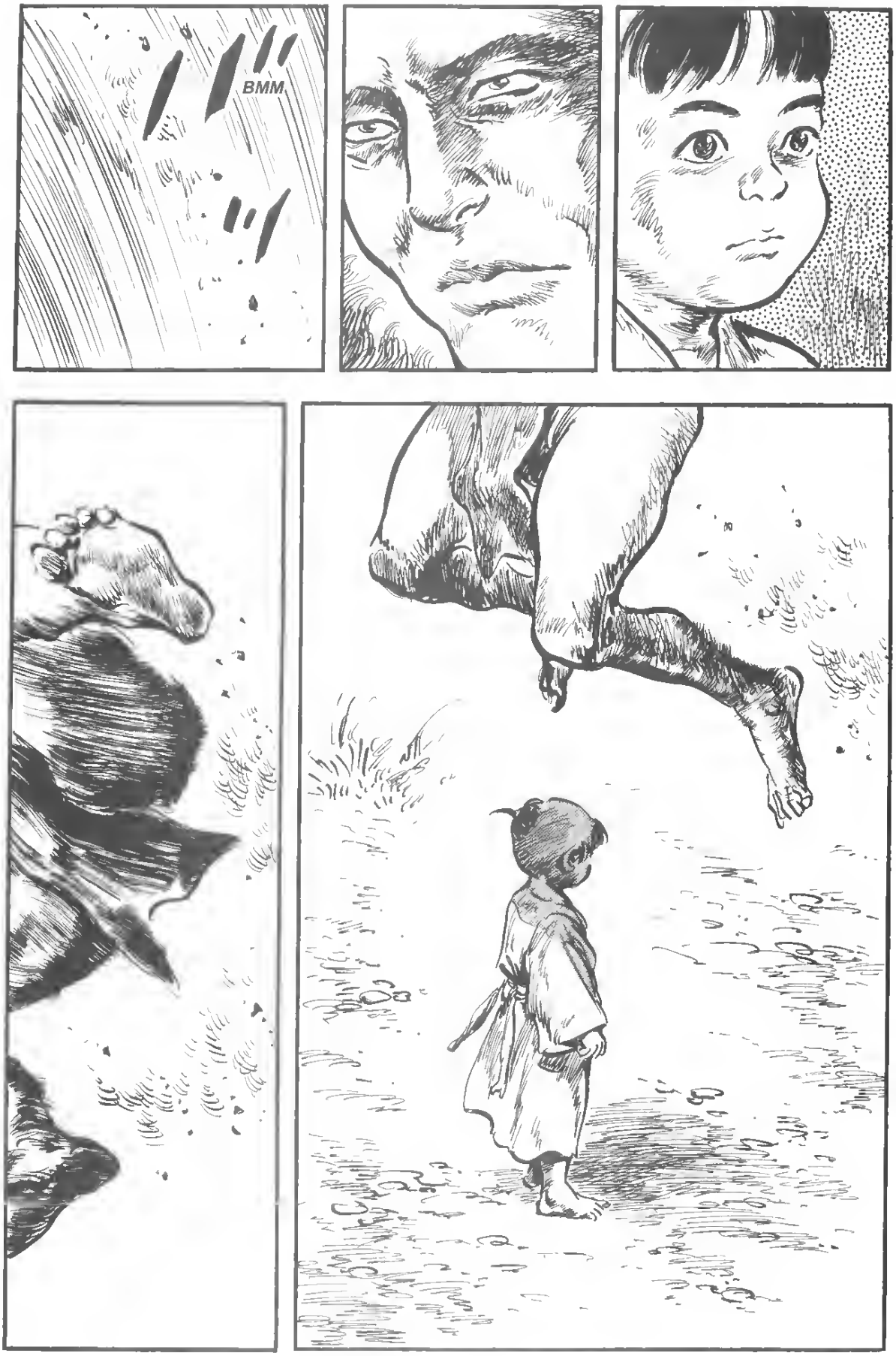
SKASH
URNNG !!
SKUSH
SHKK


HHHFF
HHOHHH
SKSS

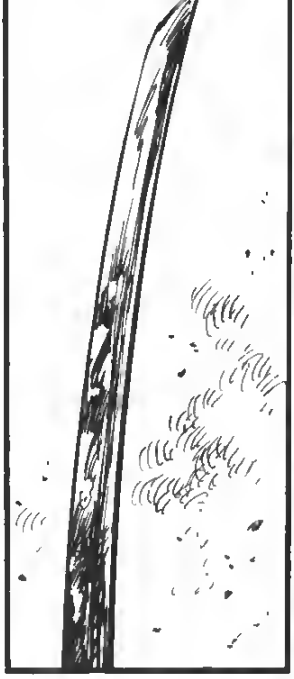

FFUUU

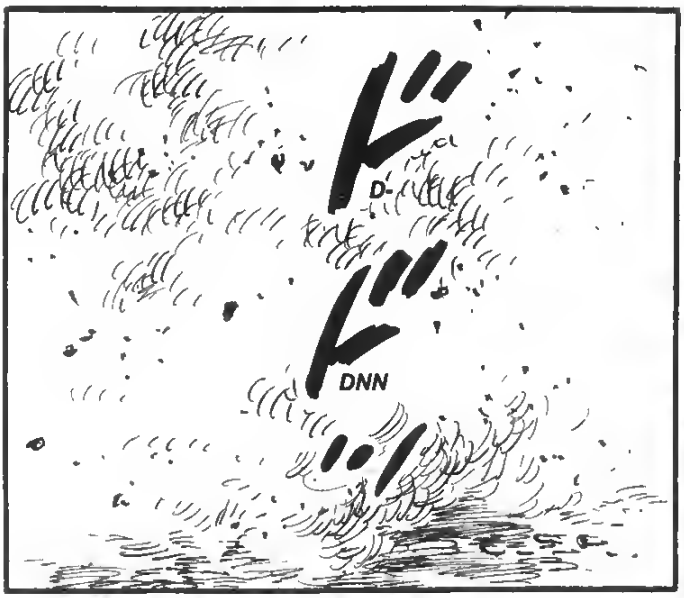



WHOOOO

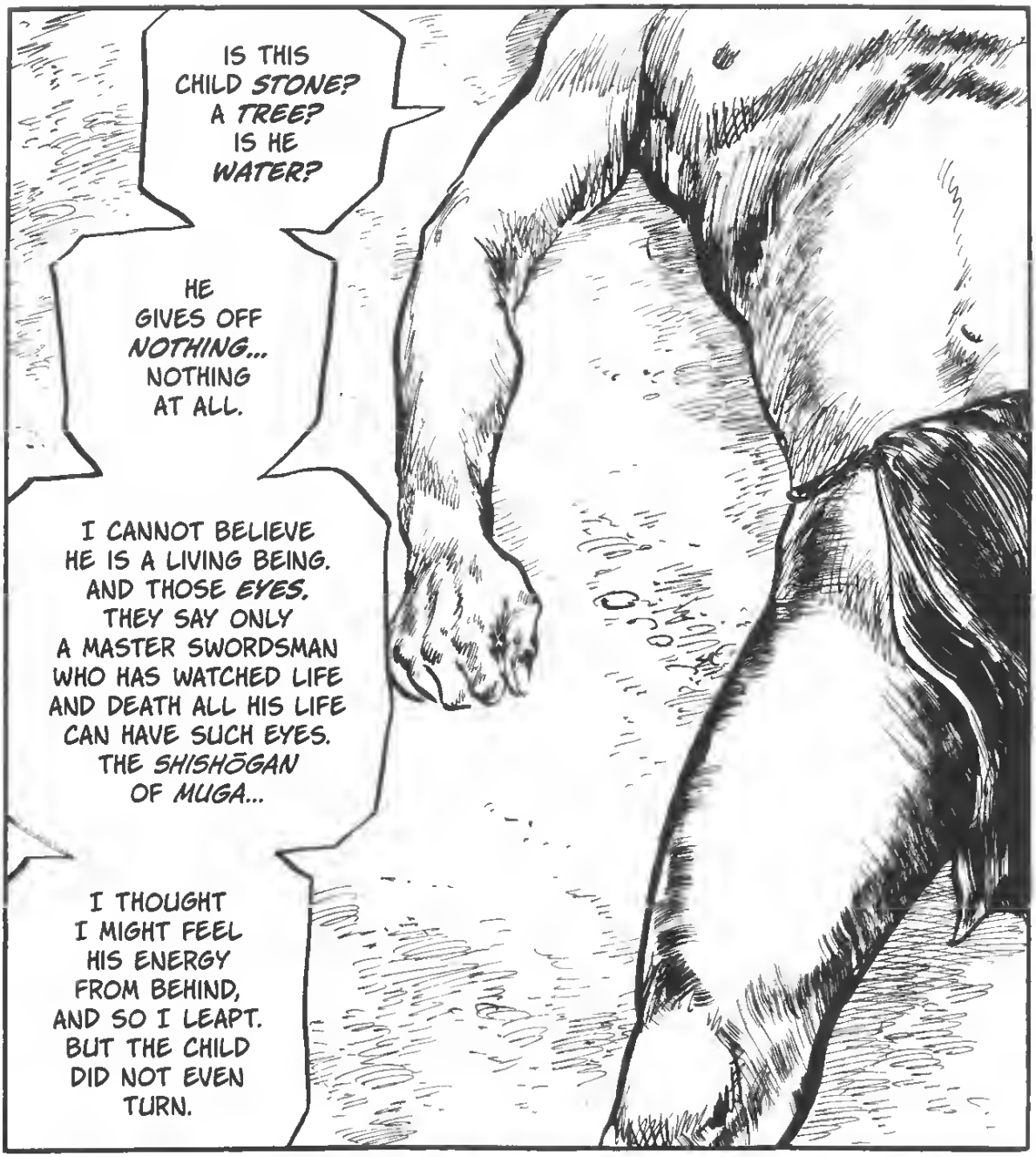

BMM

GNN
TMM
HN!



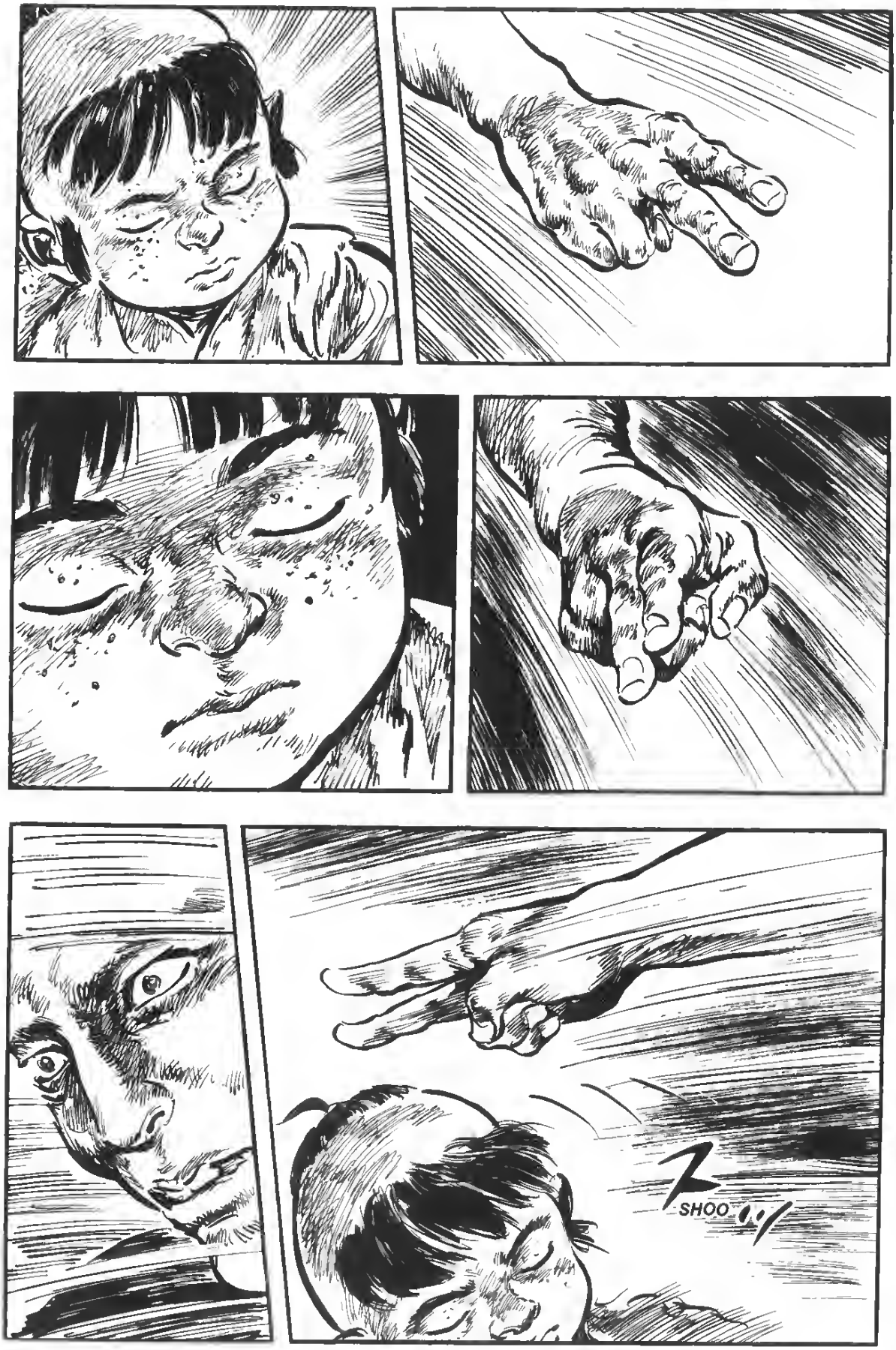

D-
DNN

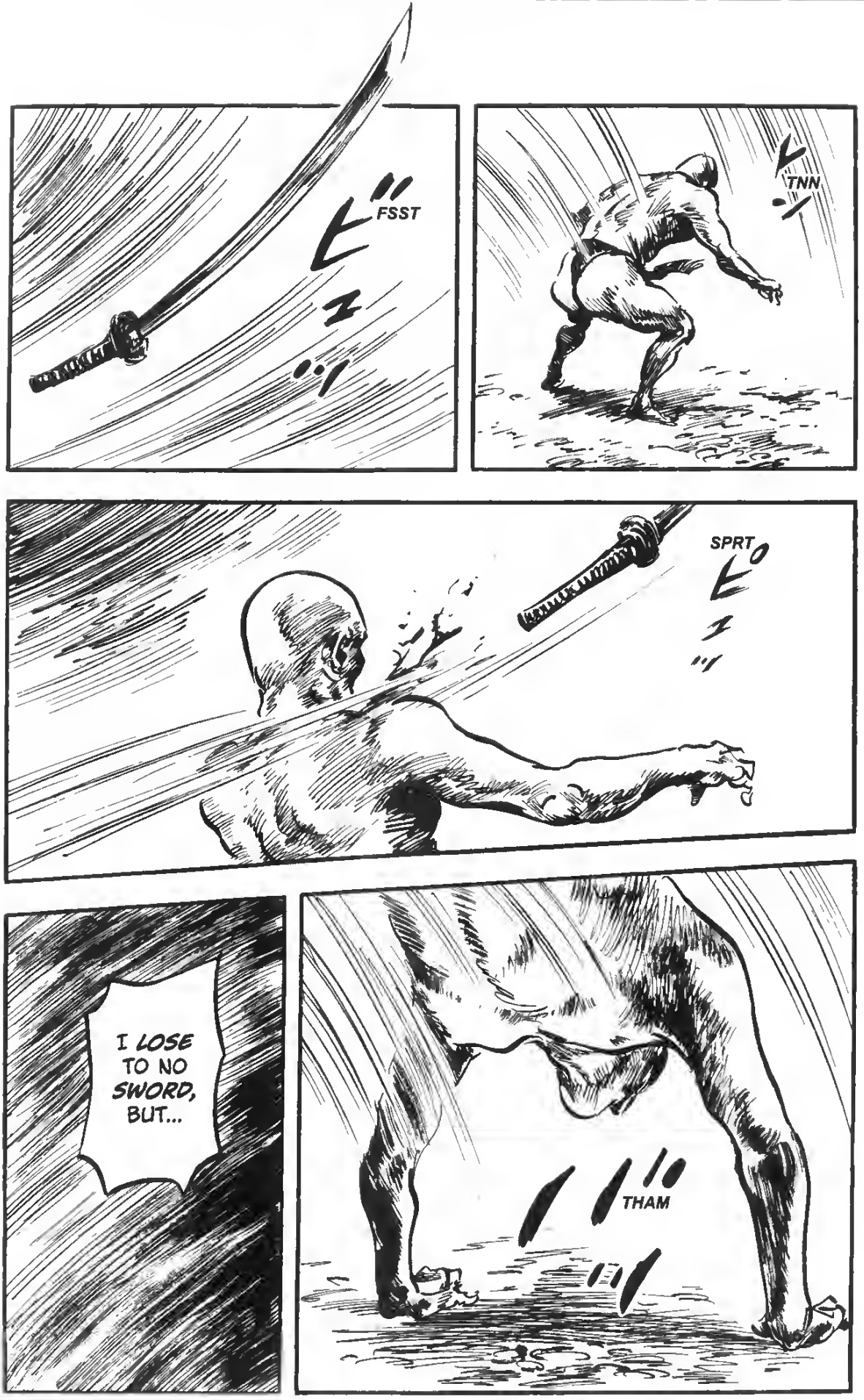
HRN ?!
THEY NEED ONLY STIR THE TINIEST BREEZE. TREMBLE, OR WHIMPER IN FEAR. IF THEY TRY TO RUN, EVEN BETTER.
IF MY OPPONENT GIVES OFF NO ENERGY, MY *WAZA* ARE BLOCKED.
THERE IS NO FIRST STRIKE IN KARATE. THE *WAZA* I HAVE MASTERED COME TO LIFE WHEN MY OPPONENT ATTACKS.
IF THE SLIGHTEST FEAR COLORS THEIR EYES, I CAN *PULVERIZE* THOSE EYES.

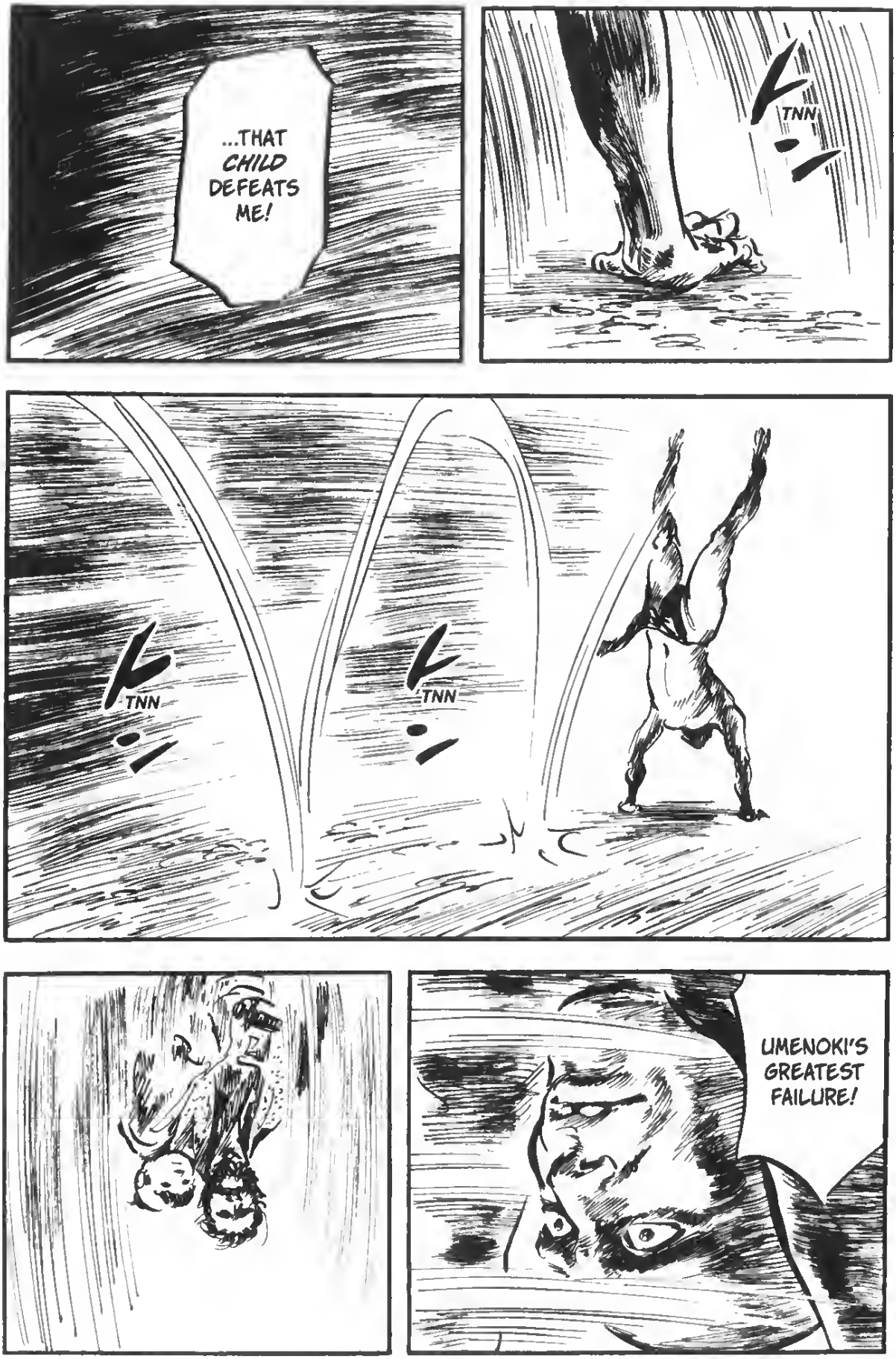

IS THIS CHILD *STONE?* A *TREE?* IS HE *WATER?*
HE GIVES OFF *NOTHING...* NOTHING AT ALL.
I CANNOT BELIEVE HE IS A LIVING BEING. AND THOSE *EYES.* THEY SAY ONLY A MASTER SWORDSMAN WHO HAS WATCHED LIFE AND DEATH ALL HIS LIFE CAN HAVE SUCH EYES. THE *SHISHŌGAN* OF *MUGA...*
I THOUGHT I MIGHT FEEL HIS ENERGY FROM BEHIND, AND SO I LEAPT. BUT THE CHILD DID NOT EVEN TURN.

I *CANNOT* STRIKE HIM...

SKASH
BUT... IF I CAN CLOSE THEM...
EVEN FROM BELOW, THOSE SAME EYES.
I CAN STRIKE!
FUWAAAH


SHOO

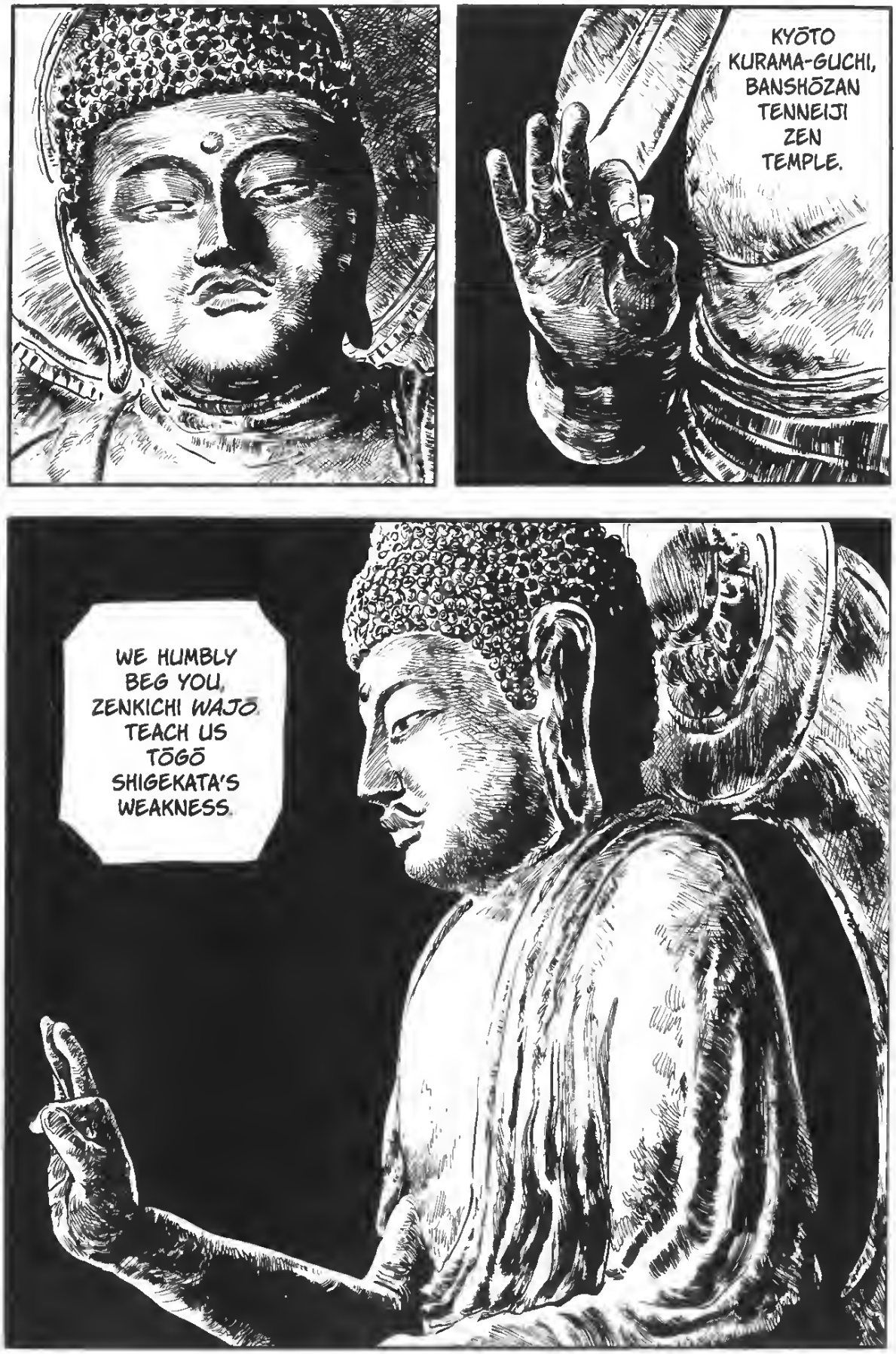

FSST
TNN
SPRT
I LOSE TO NO SWORD, BUT...
THAM

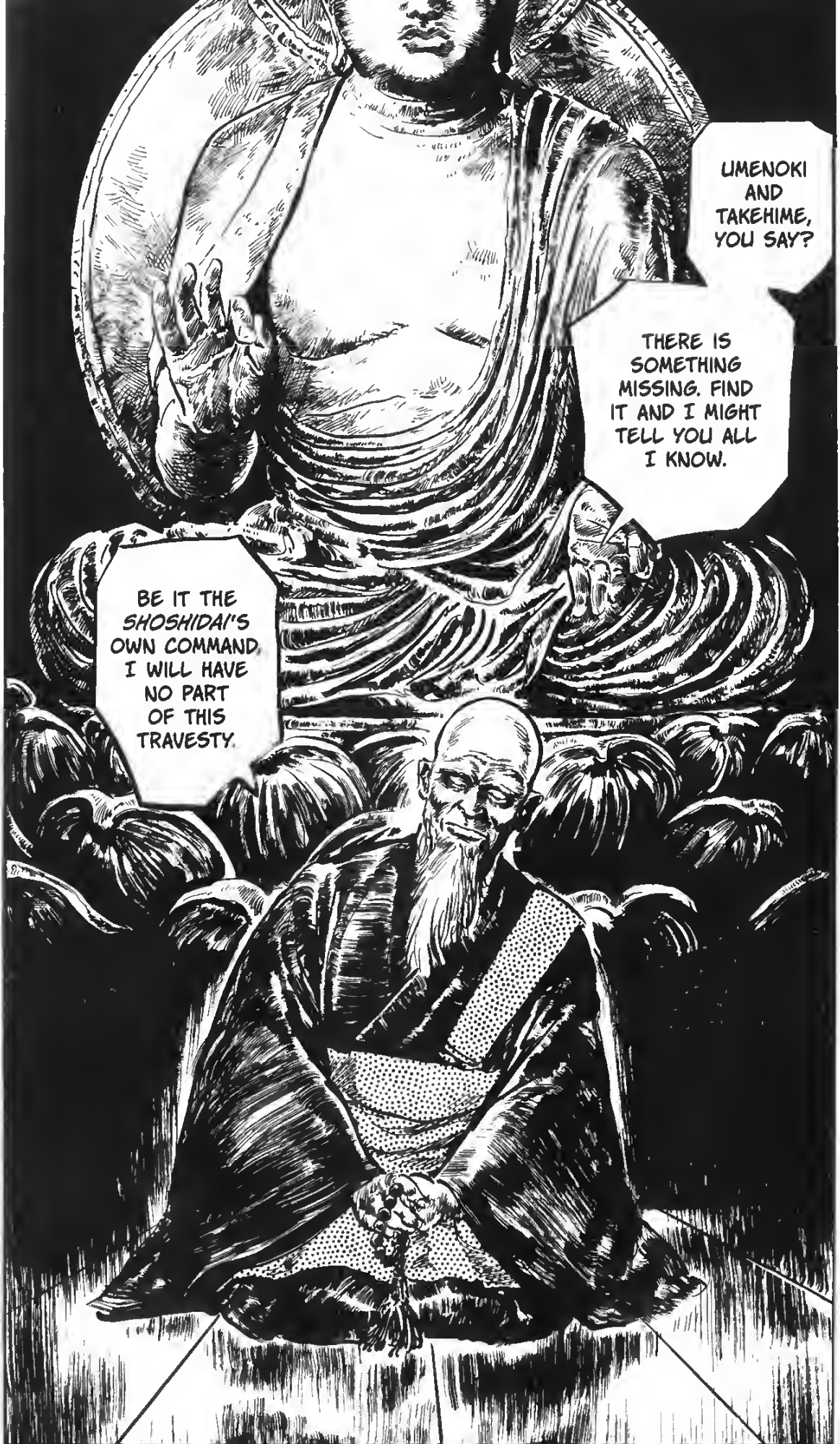

...THAT CHILD DEFEATS ME!
TNN
TNN
TNN
UMENOKI'S GREATEST FAILURE!

WHOOOOO

其之二 剣と拳（六）

THE SECOND SWORD AND FIST, PART 6

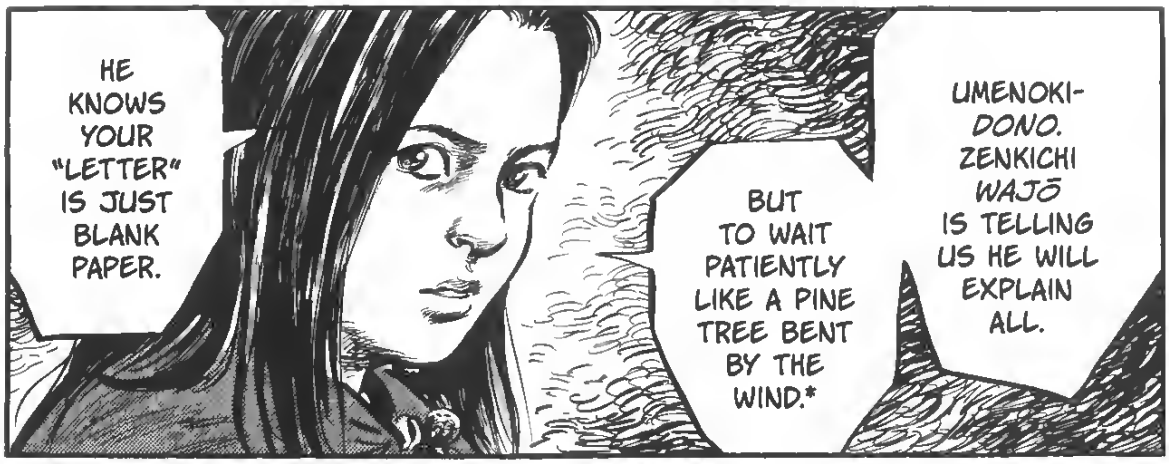

KYŌTO
KURAMA-GUCHI,
BANSHŌZAN
TENNEIJI
ZEN
TEMPLE.
WE HUMBLY
BEG YOU,
ZENKICHI *WAJŌ*.
TEACH US
TŌGŌ
SHIGEKATA'S
WEAKNESS.


UMENOKI AND TAKEHIME, YOU SAY?
THERE IS SOMETHING MISSING. FIND IT AND I MIGHT TELL YOU ALL I KNOW.
BE IT THE *SHOSHIDAI*'S OWN COMMAND, I WILL HAVE NO PART OF THIS TRAVESTY.

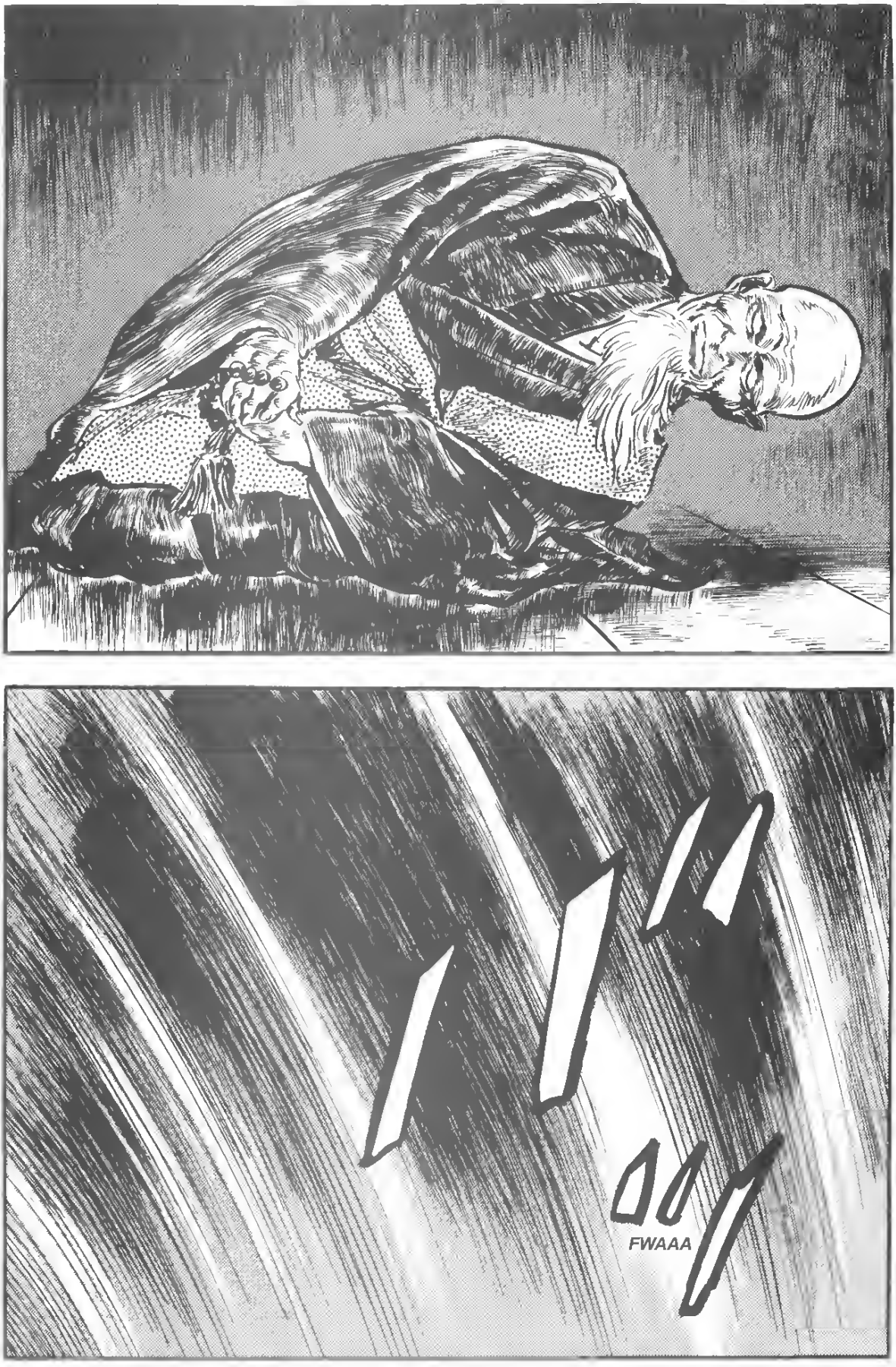
WITH *THIS* ALL PIECES SHOULD BE IN PLACE.

WE BEAR A PERSONAL LETTER FROM *GO-RŌJŪ* MATSUDAIRA *IZU-NO-KAMI*.

ENOUGH WITH THIS *PRETENSE* OF SLEEP! YOUR *ANSWER!*


HE KNOWS YOUR "LETTER" IS JUST BLANK PAPER.
BUT TO WAIT PATIENTLY LIKE A PINE TREE BENT BY THE WIND.*
UMENOKI-*DONO*. ZENKICHI *WAJŌ* IS TELLING US HE WILL EXPLAIN ALL.

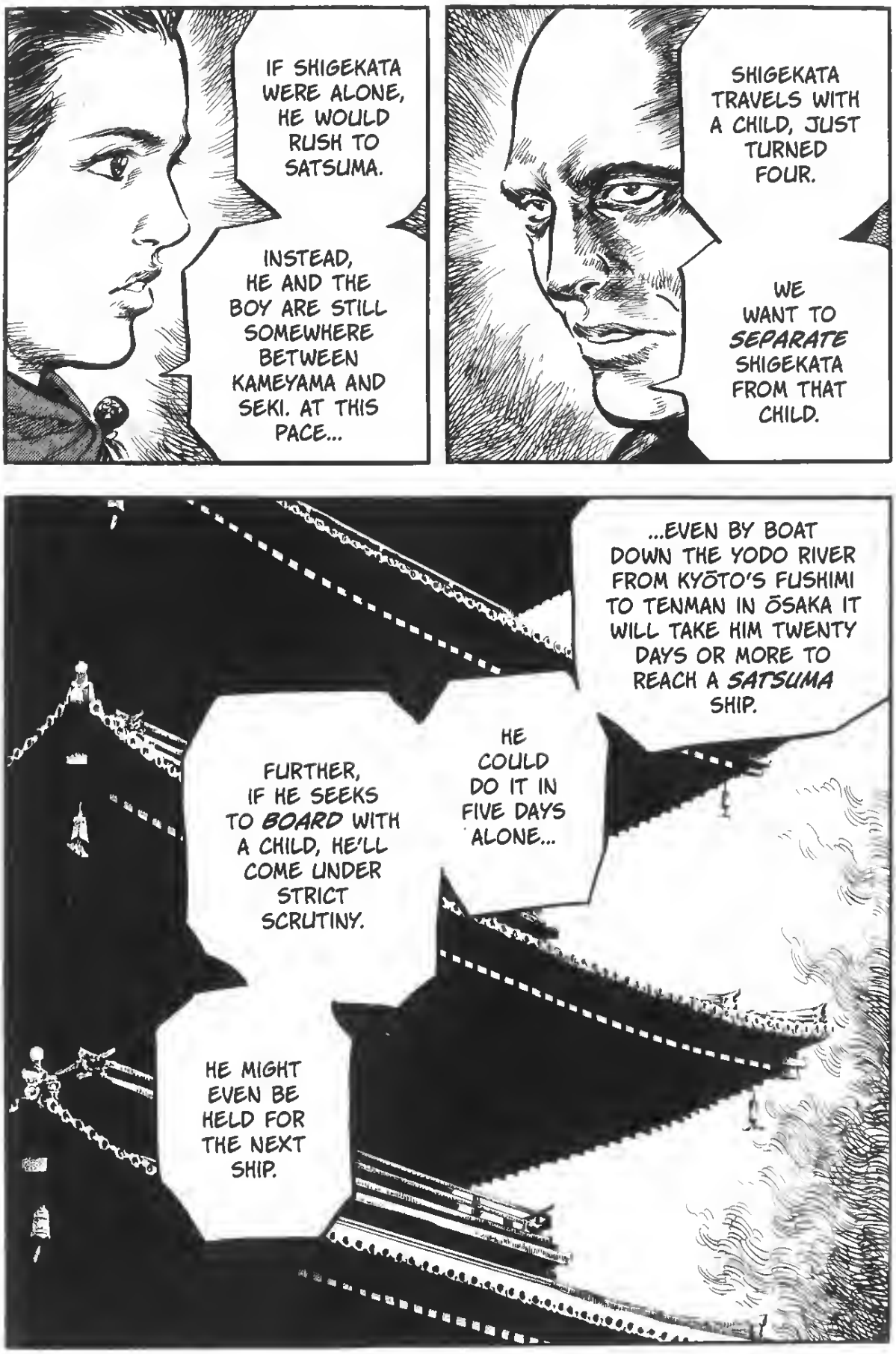
*SEE FOOTNOTES

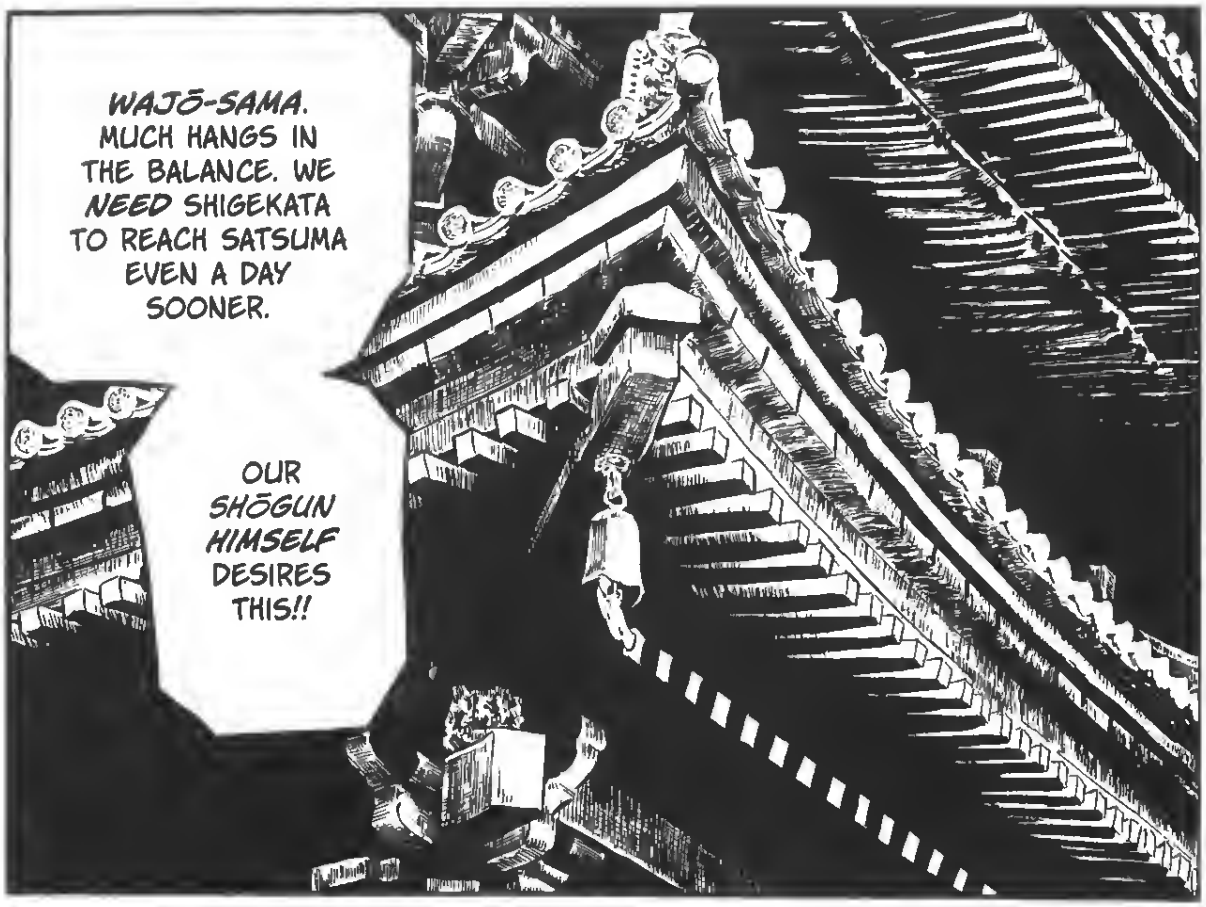

FWAAA

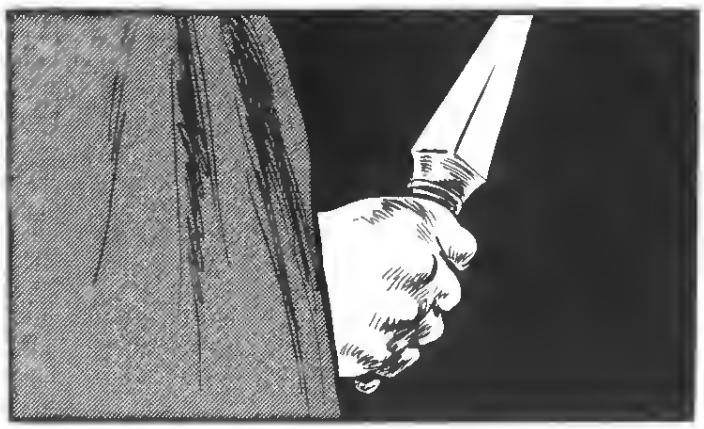
CHESU-
TOOO!

FASSH
TA-HAA!!
DNN
WHY SEEK YOU HIS WEAK-NESS?!
WITH SUCH MASTERY YOU SHOULD HAVE NO HESITATION IN CHALLENGING SHIGEKATA.
RYUKYU KARATE'S KŌSHŌ KUN* WAZA.

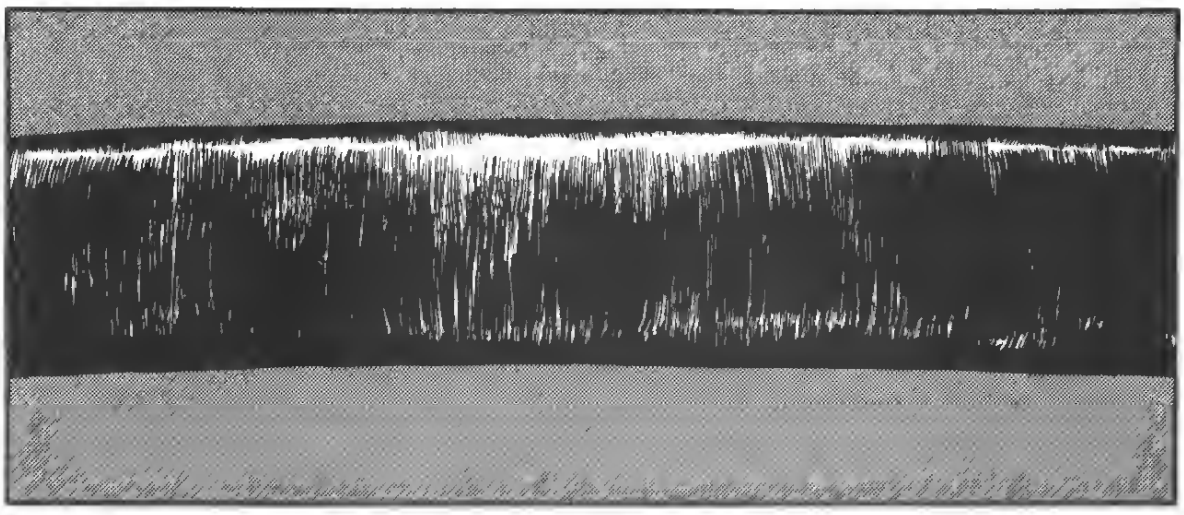
*SEE FOOTNOTES.

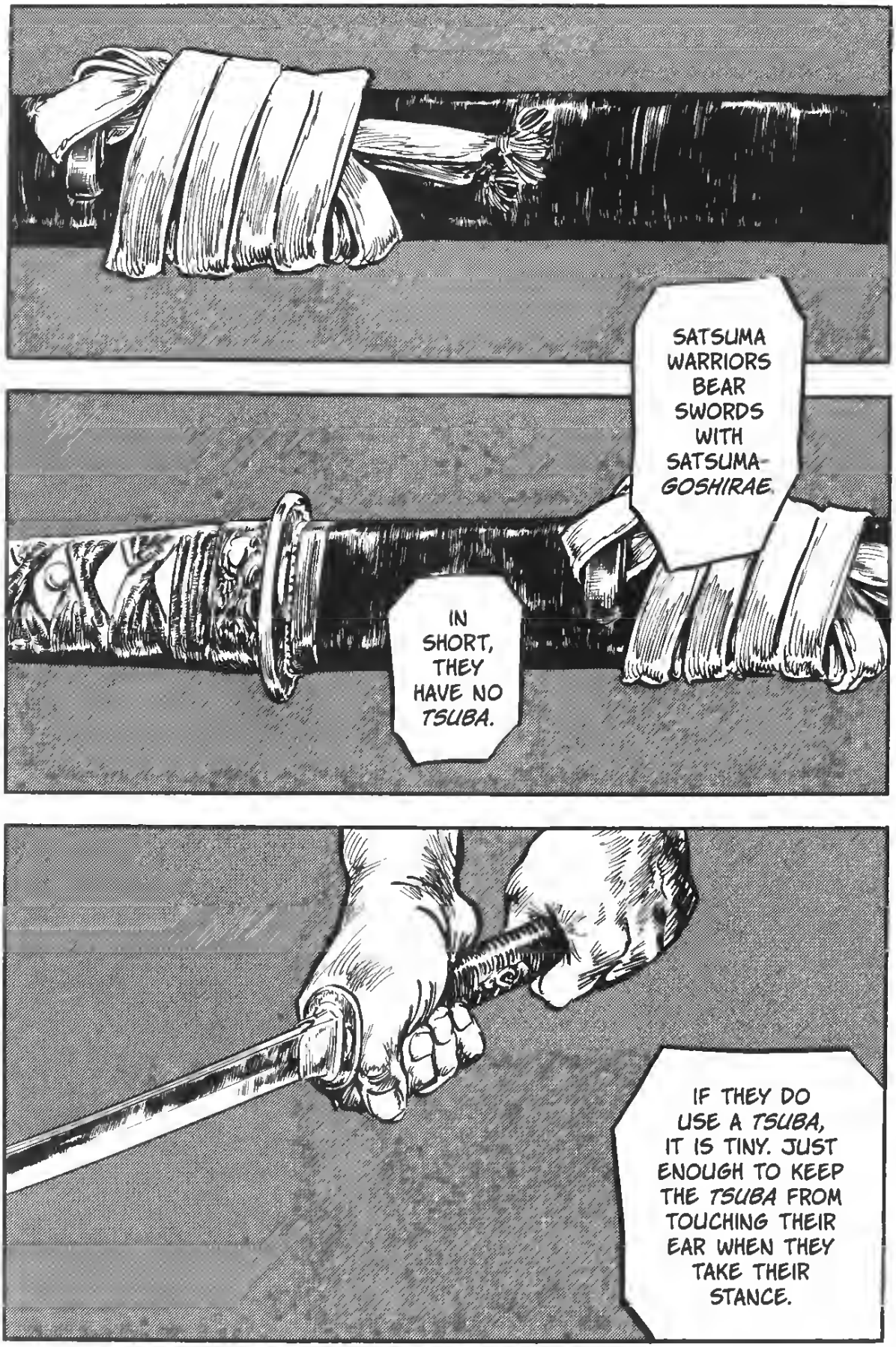

IF SHIGEKATA WERE ALONE, HE WOULD RUSH TO SATSUMA.
INSTEAD, HE AND THE BOY ARE STILL SOMEWHERE BETWEEN KAMEYAMA AND SEKI. AT THIS PACE...
SHIGEKATA TRAVELS WITH A CHILD, JUST TURNED FOUR.
WE WANT TO *SEPARATE* SHIGEKATA FROM THAT CHILD.
...EVEN BY BOAT DOWN THE YODO RIVER FROM KYŌTO'S FUSHIMI TO TENMAN IN ŌSAKA IT WILL TAKE HIM TWENTY DAYS OR MORE TO REACH A *SATSUMA* SHIP.
HE COULD DO IT IN FIVE DAYS ALONE...
FURTHER, IF HE SEEKS TO *BOARD* WITH A CHILD, HE'LL COME UNDER STRICT SCRUTINY.
HE MIGHT EVEN BE HELD FOR THE NEXT SHIP.

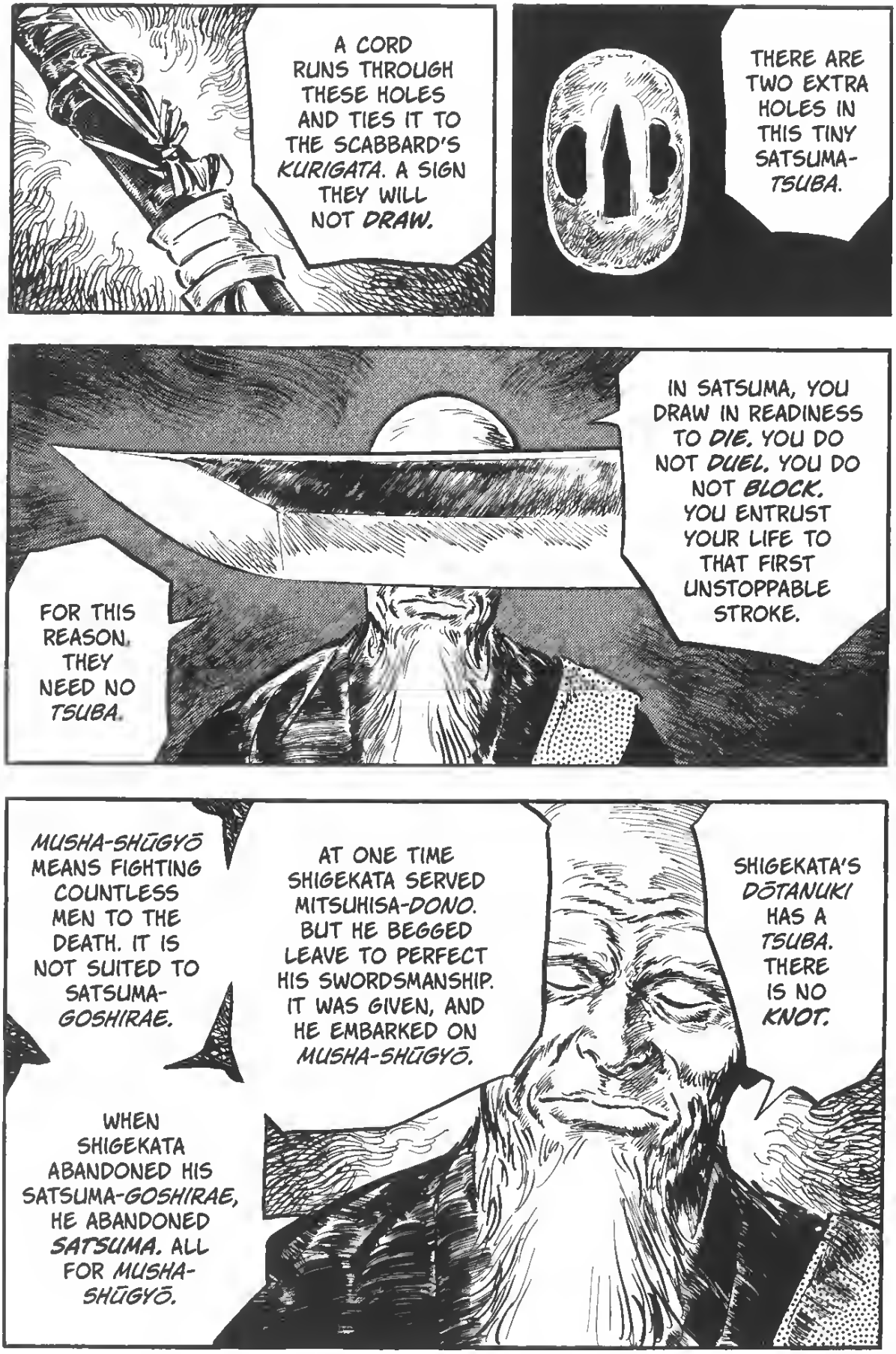

WAJŌ-SAMA. MUCH HANGS IN THE BALANCE. WE NEED SHIGEKATA TO REACH SATSUMA EVEN A DAY SOONER.
OUR SHŌGUN HIMSELF DESIRES THIS!!

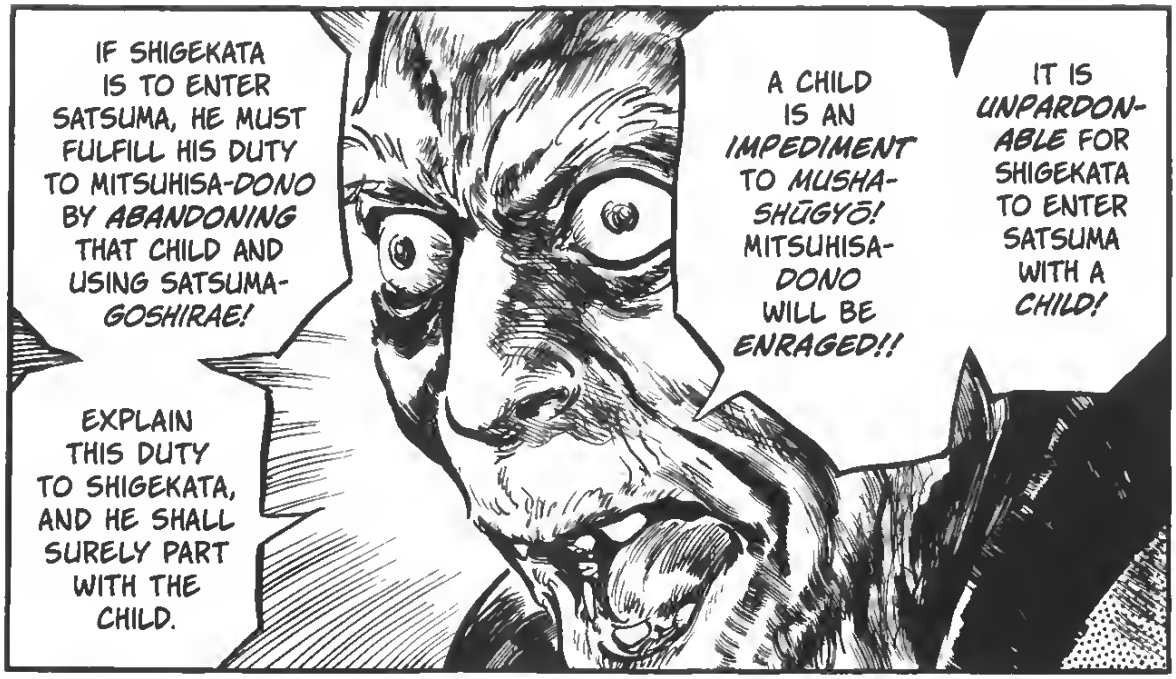


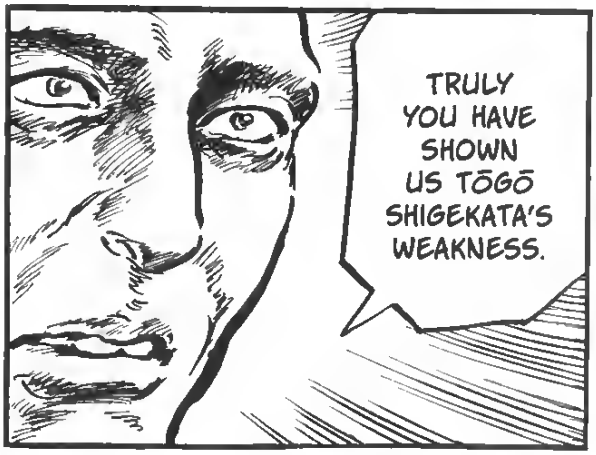
IF YOU PLEDGE NOT TO KILL THE CHILD, AND PROVIDE PROOF YOU WILL KEEP THAT PROMISE, THEN I SHALL TELL YOU.

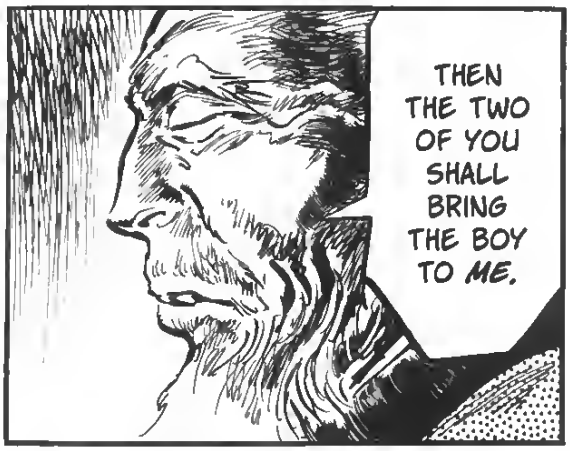


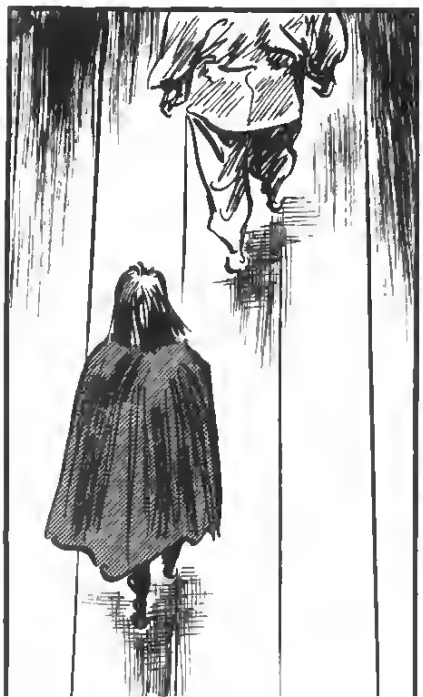

SATSUMA WARRIORS BEAR SWORDS WITH SATSUMA-*GOSHIRAE*.
IN SHORT, THEY HAVE NO *TSUBA*.
IF THEY DO USE A *TSUBA*, IT IS TINY. JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP THE *TSUBA* FROM TOUCHING THEIR EAR WHEN THEY TAKE THEIR STANCE.


A CORD RUNS THROUGH THESE HOLES AND TIES IT TO THE SCABBARD'S *KURIGATA*. A SIGN THEY WILL NOT ***DRAW.***
THERE ARE TWO EXTRA HOLES IN THIS TINY SATSUMA-*TSUBA*.
IN SATSUMA, YOU DRAW IN READINESS TO ***DIE.*** YOU DO NOT ***DUEL.*** YOU DO NOT ***BLOCK.*** YOU ENTRUST YOUR LIFE TO THAT FIRST UNSTOPPABLE STROKE.
FOR THIS REASON, THEY NEED NO *TSUBA*.
MUSHA-SHŪGYŌ MEANS FIGHTING COUNTLESS MEN TO THE DEATH. IT IS NOT SUITED TO SATSUMA-*GOSHIRAE*.
AT ONE TIME SHIGEKATA SERVED MITSUHISA-*DONO*. BUT HE BEGGED LEAVE TO PERFECT HIS SWORDSMANSHIP. IT WAS GIVEN, AND HE EMBARKED ON *MUSHA-SHŪGYŌ*.
SHIGEKATA'S *DŌTANUKI* HAS A *TSUBA*. THERE IS NO ***KNOT.***
WHEN SHIGEKATA ABANDONED HIS SATSUMA-*GOSHIRAE*, HE ABANDONED ***SATSUMA.*** ALL FOR *MUSHA-SHŪGYŌ*.


IF SHIGEKATA IS TO ENTER SATSUMA, HE MUST FULFILL HIS DUTY TO MITSUHISA-*DONO* BY *ABANDONING* THAT CHILD AND USING SATSUMA-*GOSHIRAE!*
A CHILD IS AN *IMPEDIMENT* TO *MUSHA-SHŪGYŌ!* MITSUHISA-*DONO* WILL BE *ENRAGED!!*
IT IS *UNPARDON-ABLE* FOR SHIGEKATA TO ENTER SATSUMA WITH A *CHILD!*
EXPLAIN THIS DUTY TO SHIGEKATA, AND HE SHALL SURELY PART WITH THE CHILD.


TRULY YOU HAVE SHOWN US TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA'S WEAKNESS.

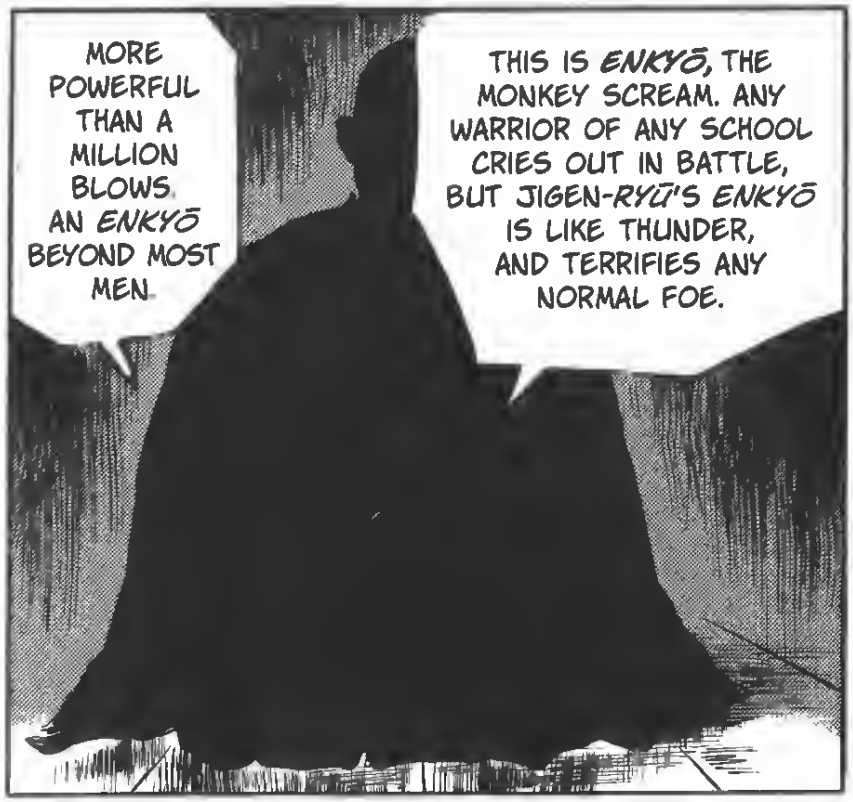

THEN THE TWO OF YOU SHALL BRING THE BOY TO *ME.*

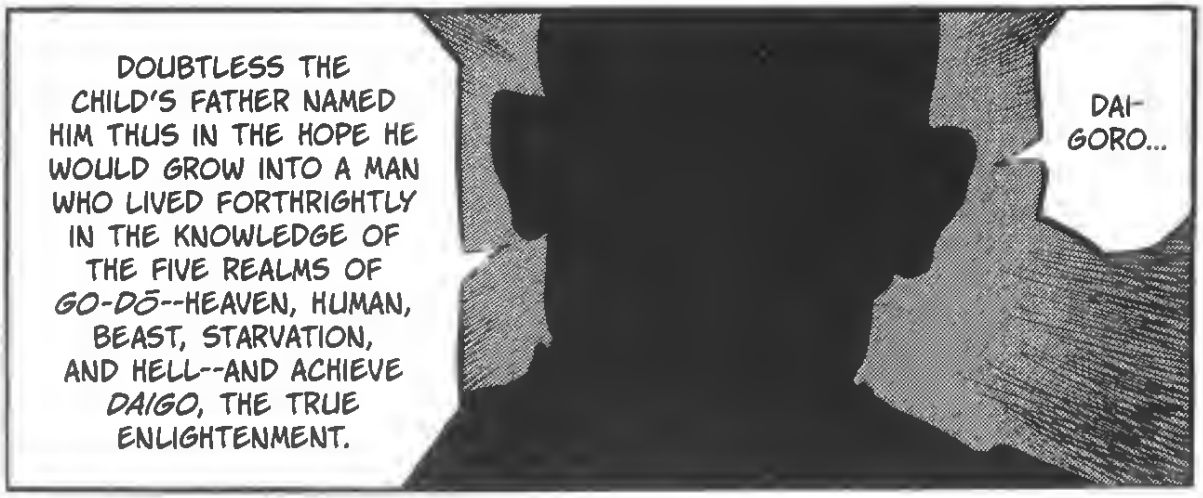


OUR HUM-BLEST THANKS.

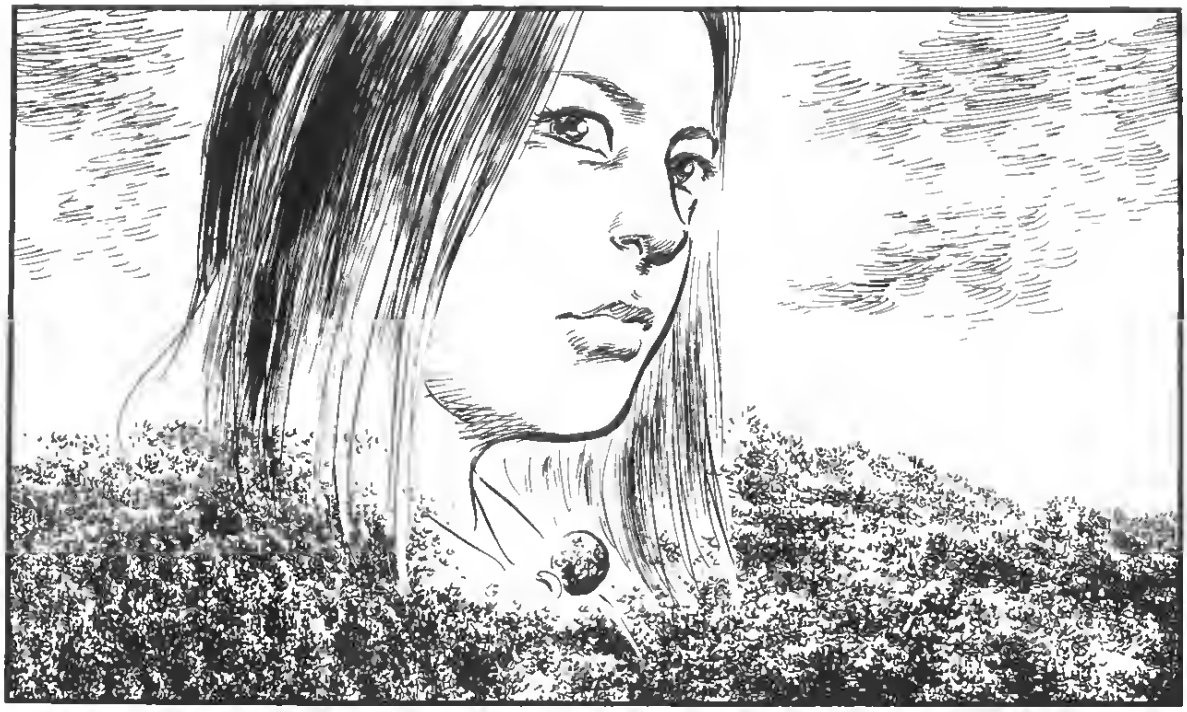
WHEN SHIGEKATA-*DONO* CRUSHES AN OPPONENT WITH A SINGLE STROKE, HE USES AN EARSPLITTING *KIAI*, "*CHESUTO*." YOU USE THIS, TOO, *WAJŌ-SAMA*?

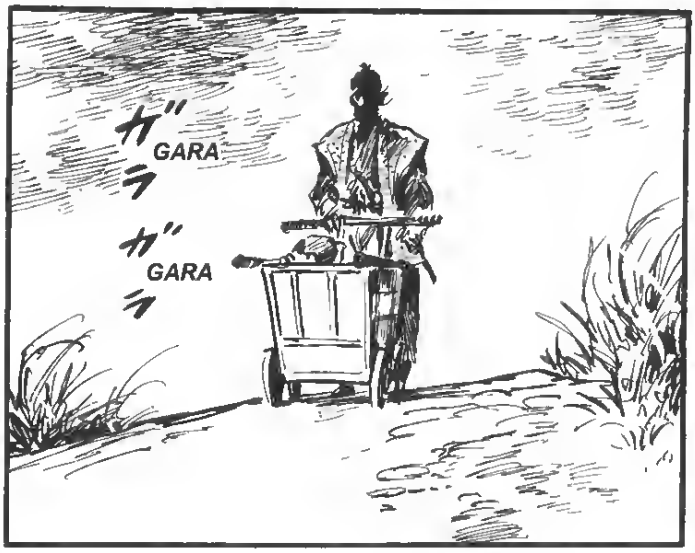
WHAT IS THE BOY'S *NAME* ?!
HIS NAME IS... DAIGORO.


MORE POWERFUL THAN A MILLION BLOWS. AN *ENKYŌ* BEYOND MOST MEN.
THIS IS *ENKYŌ*, THE MONKEY SCREAM. ANY WARRIOR OF ANY SCHOOL CRIES OUT IN BATTLE, BUT JIGEN-*RYŪ*'S *ENKYŌ* IS LIKE THUNDER, AND TERRIFIES ANY NORMAL FOE.


DOUBTLESS THE CHILD'S FATHER NAMED HIM THUS IN THE HOPE HE WOULD GROW INTO A MAN WHO LIVED FORTHRIGHTLY IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FIVE REALMS OF *GO-DŌ*--HEAVEN, HUMAN, BEAST, STARVATION, AND HELL--AND ACHIEVE *DAIGO*, THE TRUE ENLIGHTENMENT.
DAI-GORO...

COME WHAT MAY, YOU *MUST NOT* KILL DAIGORO!
I HAVE HEARD THIS NAME BEFORE.
A WOLF CHILD. WITH *SHISHŌGAN*. IN OTHER WORDS... ŌGAMI DAIGORO.
I SEE. SO NOW SHIGEKATA IS WITH HIM.

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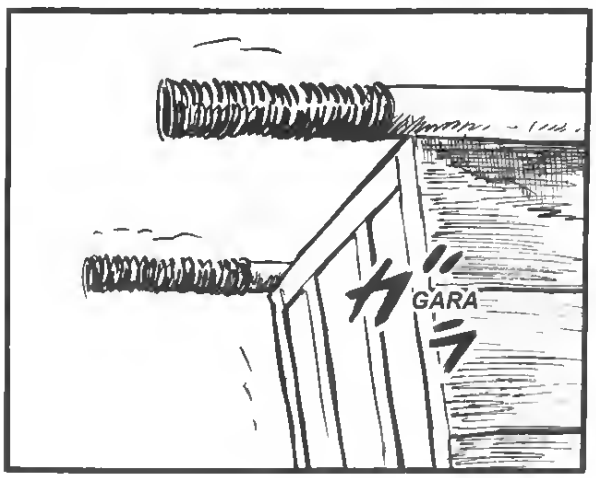
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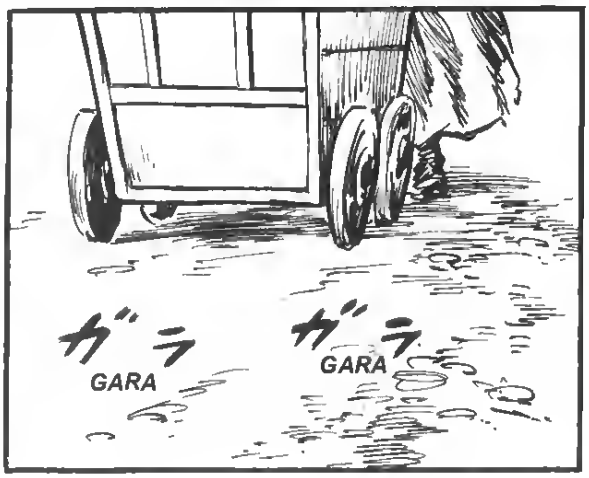
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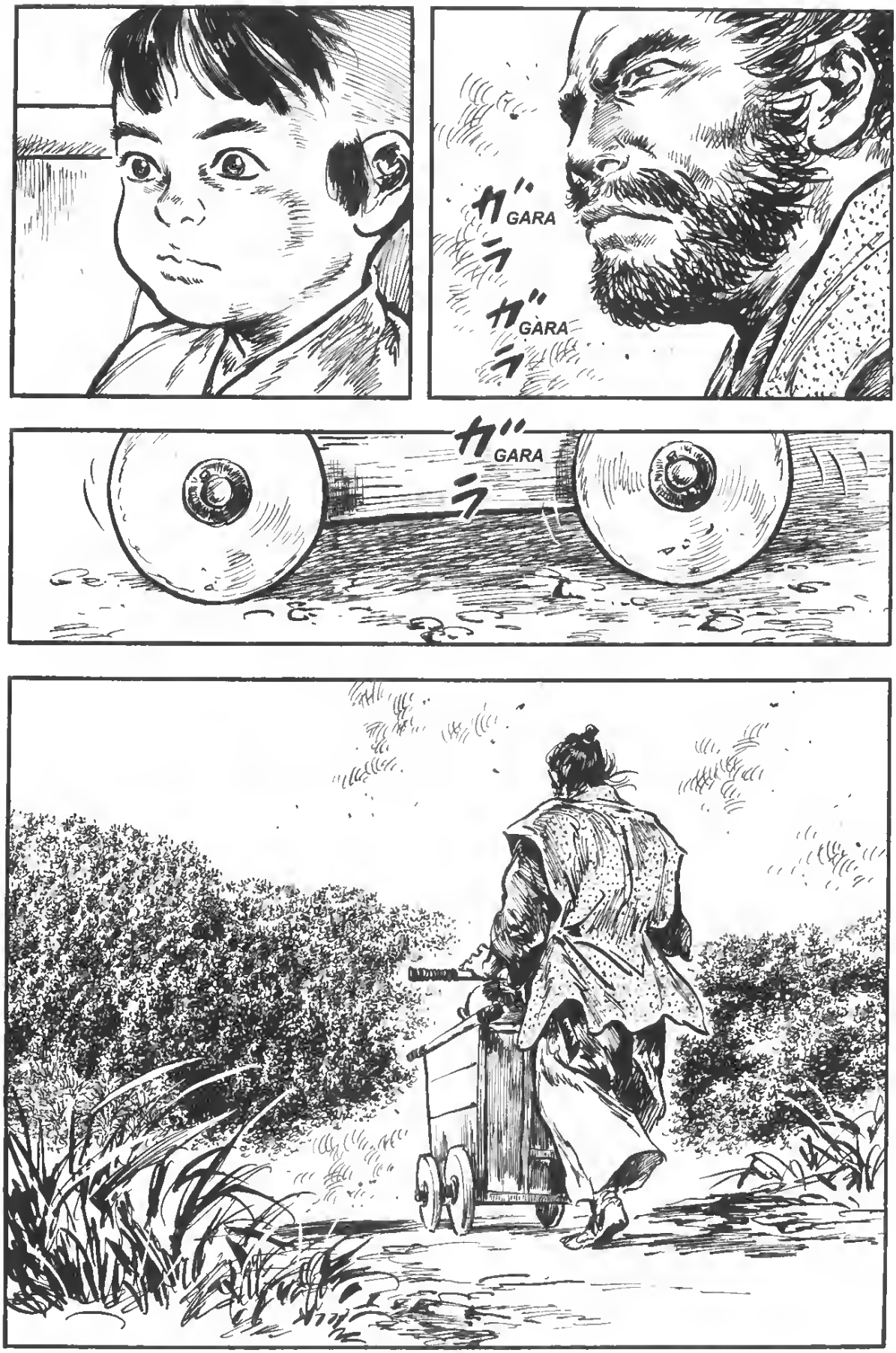
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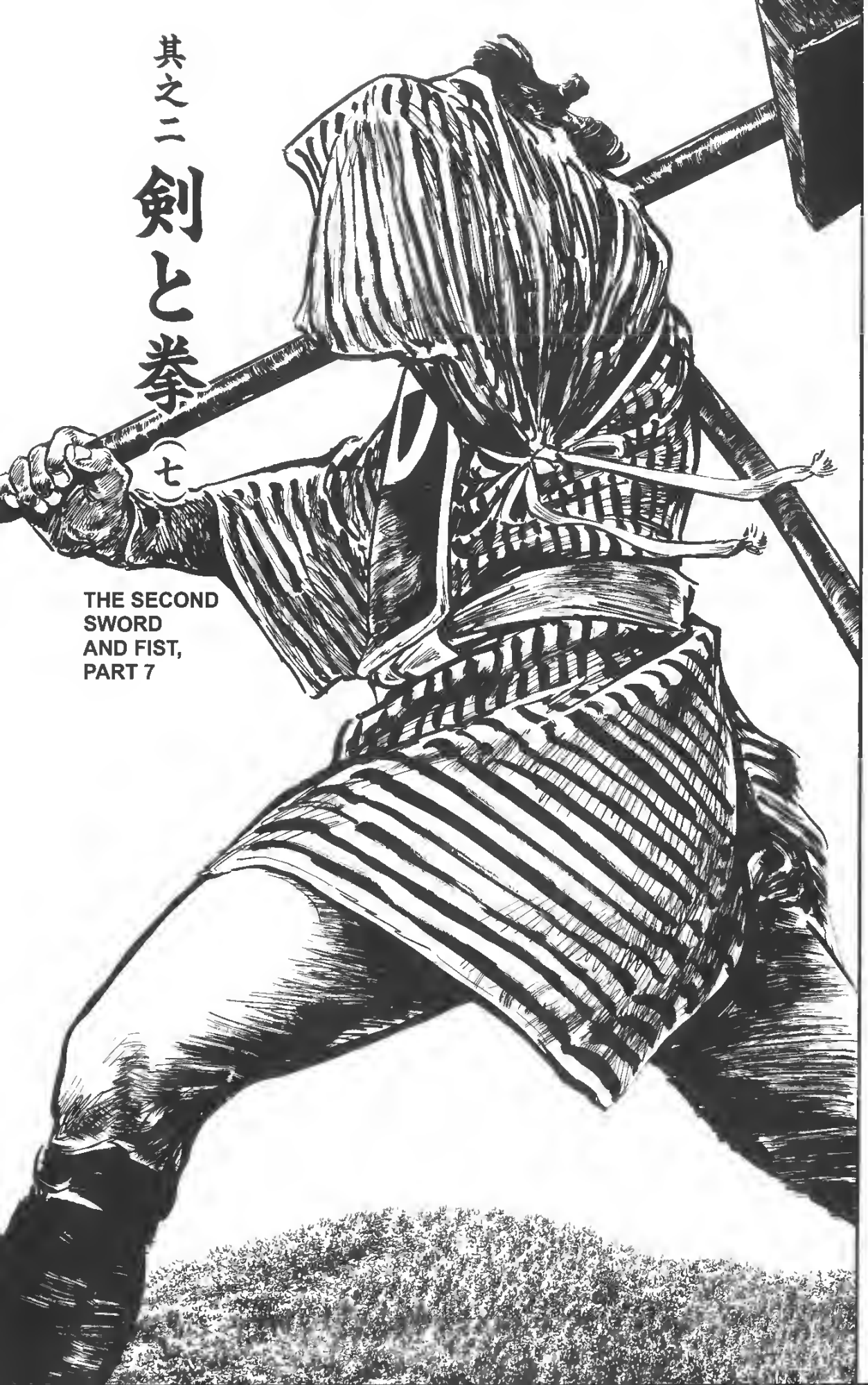

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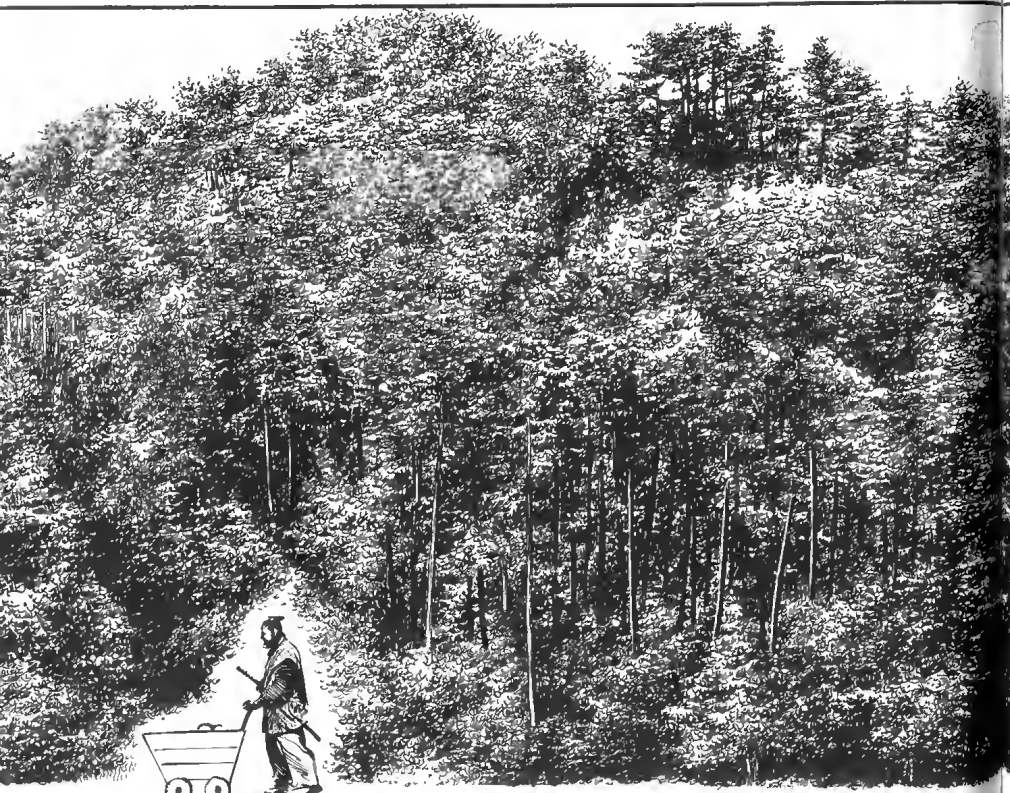
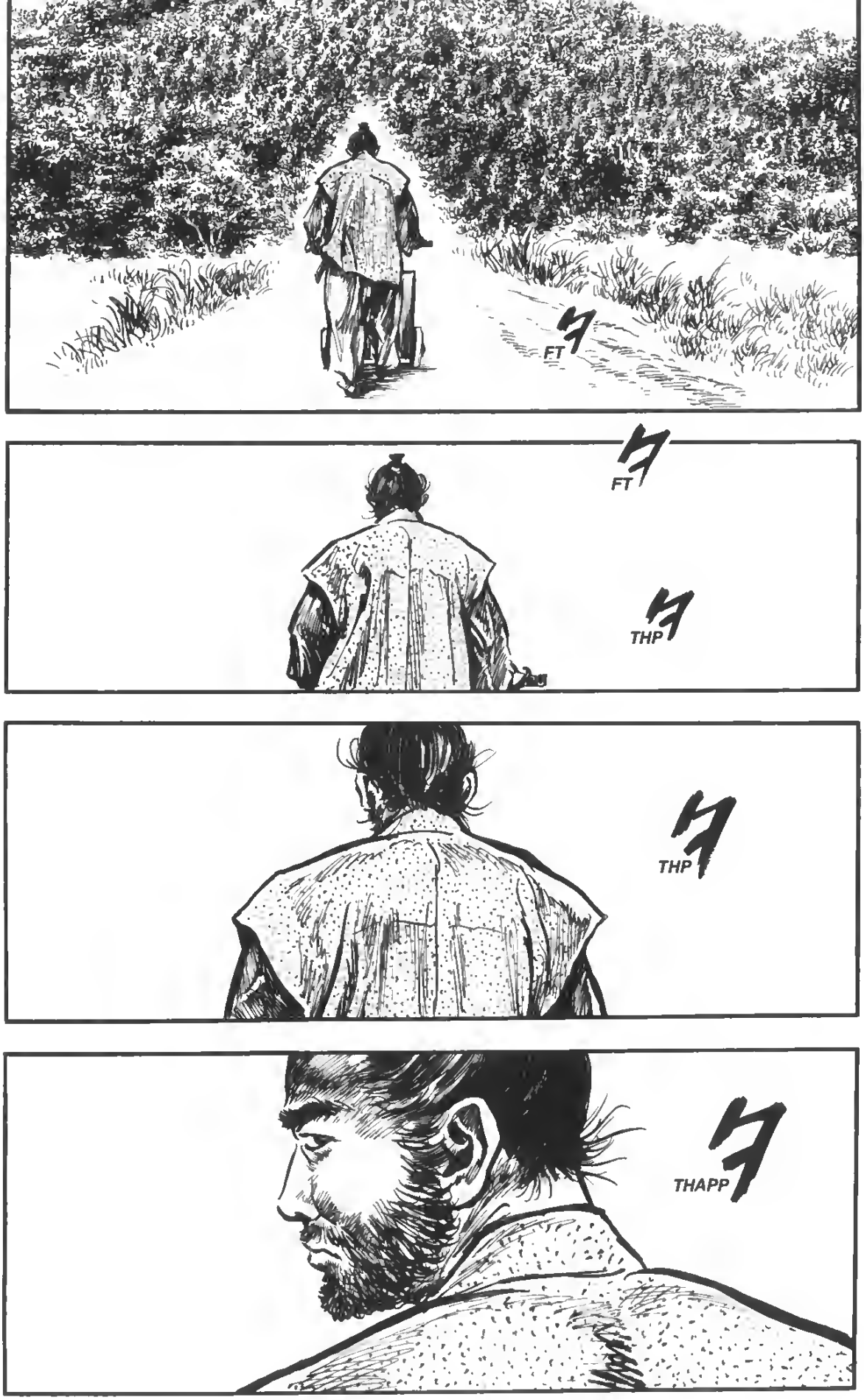
THE SECOND
SWORD
AND FIST,
PART 7

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THP
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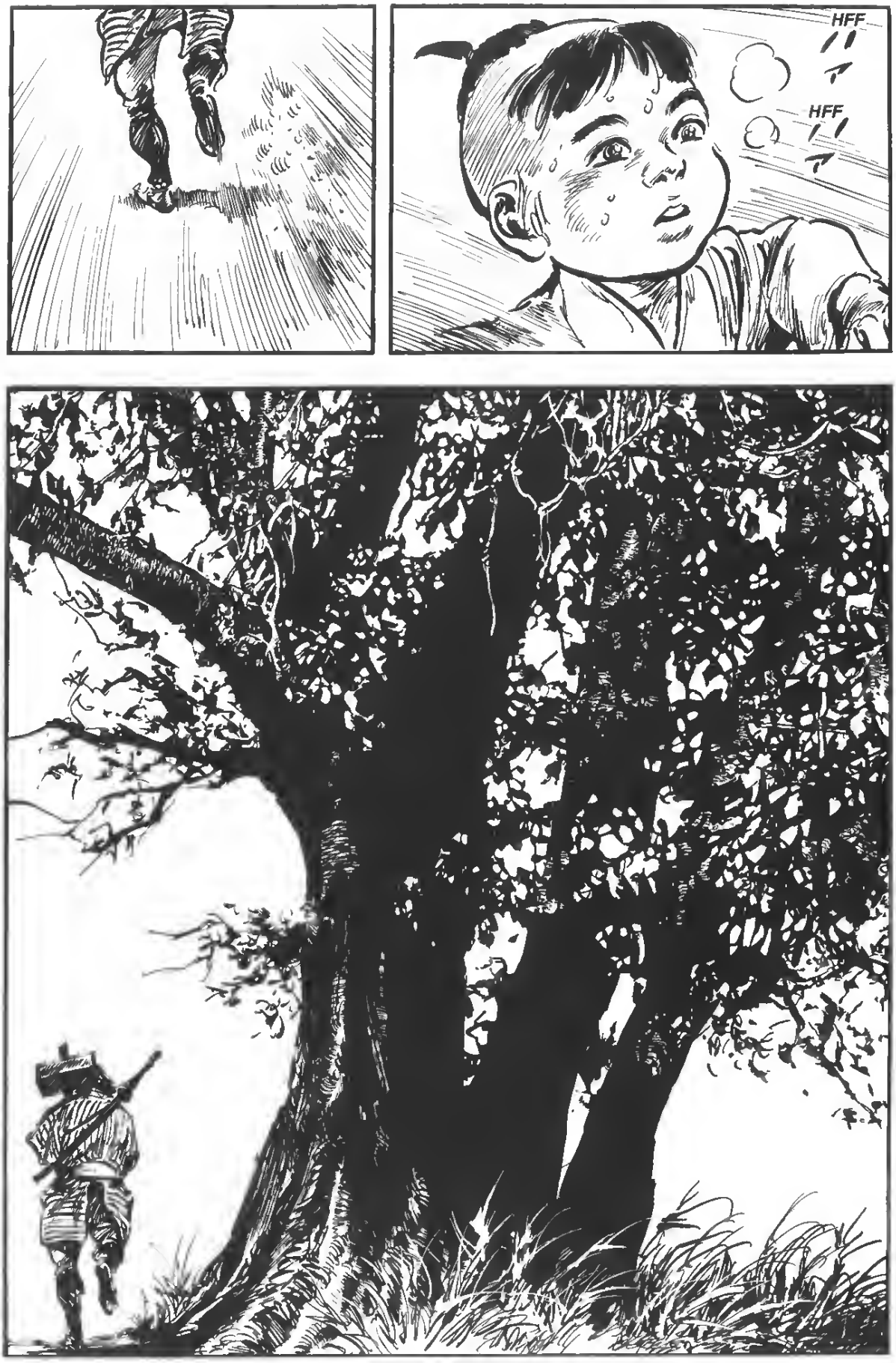
THAPP

OOPS!
'SCUSE ME! GOMEN-NAI!
TMP
TMP
TMP
WHRLL
HOLD! SATSUMA HIKYAKU-DONO!
A HIKYAKU IN A HURRY CAN'T LET HIS FEET STOP! GOMENNAI!

DAIGORO! FOLLOW ME! DON'T FALL BEHIND!
THAM
FWTT
YOU CAN BOARD... BUT YOU ONLY GOT THREE DAYS.
HIKYAKU-DONO! I NEED TO ASK!! THE S-SATSUMA BUNE...CAN WE STILL BOARD?!

WHO ARE YOU?! AN EDO MAN?!
WH-WHAT ?!
I SHOULD HAVE SAID SOONER. MY NAME IS TŌGŌ SHIGEKATA.
AND THAT CHILD IS DAIGORO.

TN
BURNS YOU THAT I DON'T SPEAK SATSUMA?
TN
HRNG!
TN
TN
TN


HFF
HFF

SEEING YOU RUN LIKE THE DEVIL, I FIGURE SOMETHING BIG'S GOING ON.
I'M FROM EDO, ALL RIGHT. *SENJI SAHE'S* THE NAME. FOLK APPRECIATE THESE *LEGS* OF MINE. I'VE GOT AN URGENT DELIVERY FROM THE SATSUMA-*HANTEI*.
USED TO BE JUST A NOTHING *RŌNIN*.
BUT I'M WHO I *SAY* I AM! THE PROOF'S IN THE *LEGS!*

HFF
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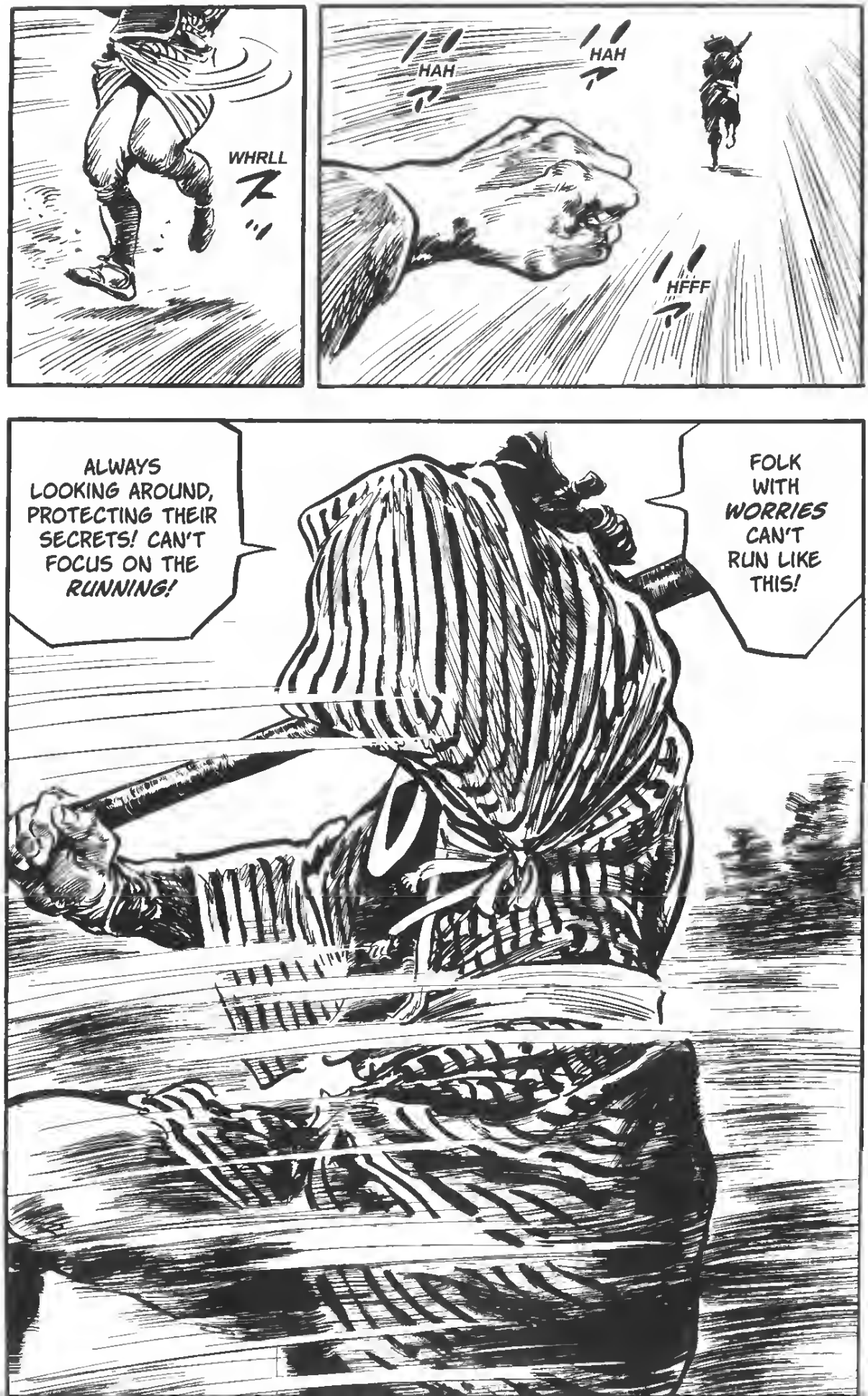
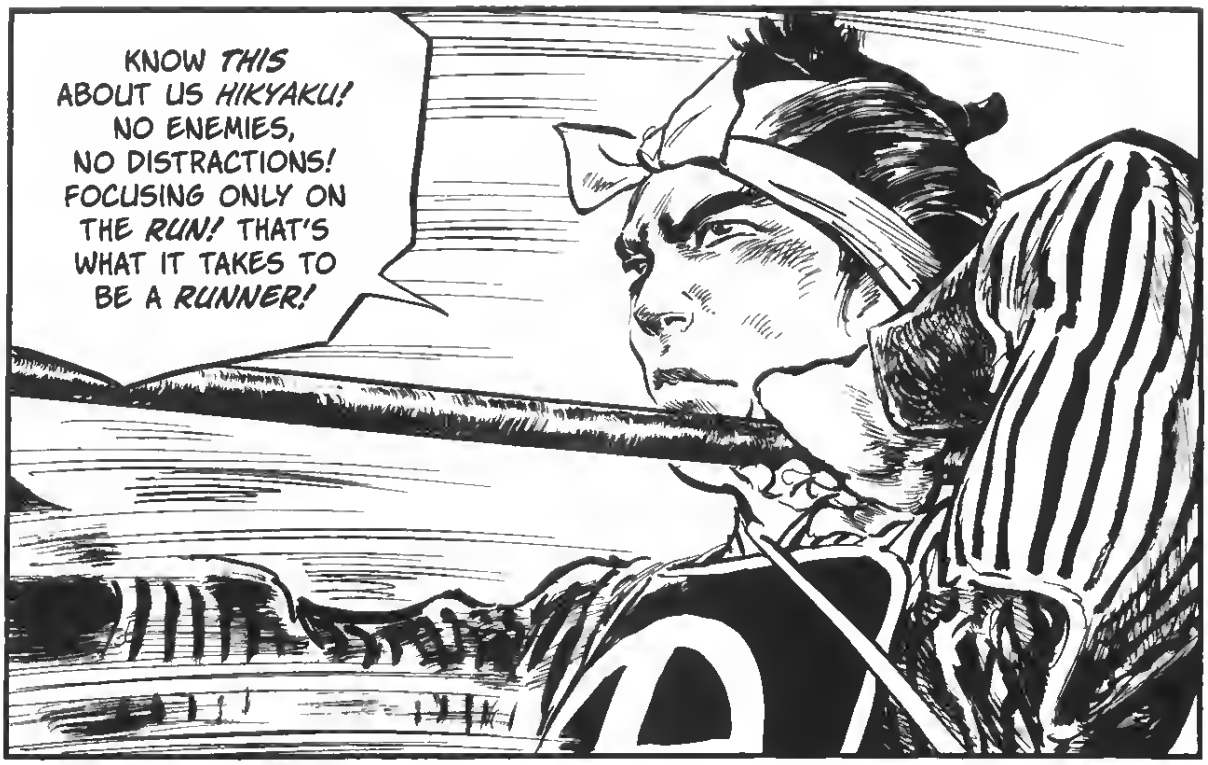
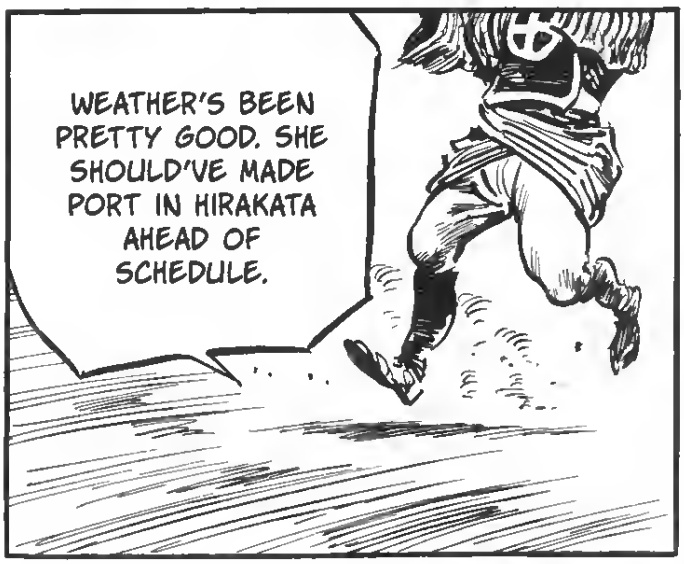
HFF
AFTER HIM! DAIGORO, KIBARE!

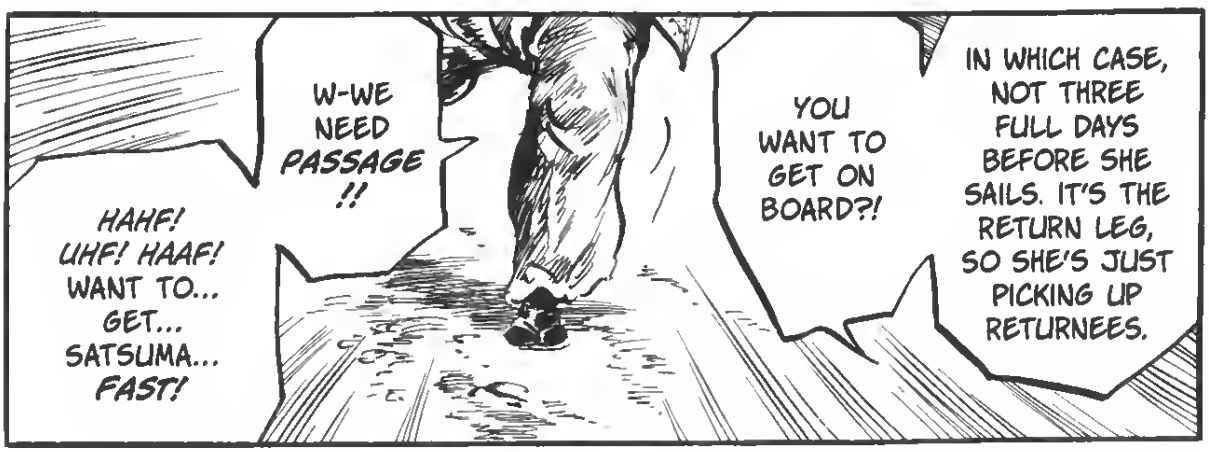
HAHF
HFF
HAAHH
HAH


WHRLL
HAH
HAH
HFFF
ALWAYS LOOKING AROUND, PROTECTING THEIR SECRETS! CAN'T FOCUS ON THE *RUNNING!*
FOLK WITH *WORRIES* CAN'T RUN LIKE THIS!

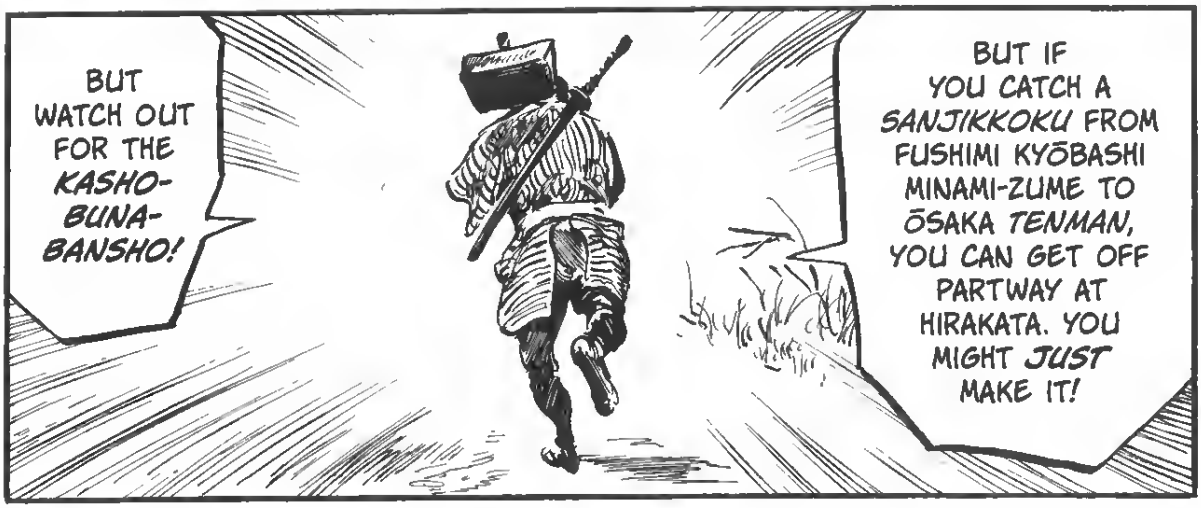

KNOW *THIS* ABOUT US *HIKYAKU!* NO ENEMIES, NO DISTRACTIONS! FOCUSING ONLY ON THE *RUN!* THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A *RUNNER!*


WEATHER'S BEEN PRETTY GOOD. SHE SHOULD'VE MADE PORT IN HIRAKATA AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.

I UNDER-STAND! *FORGIVE* ME!
THE SATSUMA-*BUNE*. *WHEN* AND *WHERE?!*

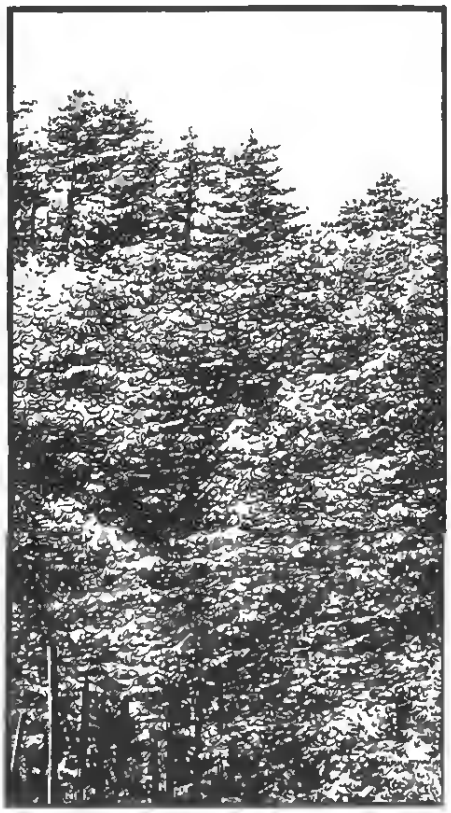

HAHF! UHF! HAAF! WANT TO... GET... SATSUMA... *FAST!*
W-WE NEED *PASSAGE !!*
YOU WANT TO GET ON BOARD?!
IN WHICH CASE, NOT THREE FULL DAYS BEFORE SHE SAILS. IT'S THE RETURN LEG, SO SHE'S JUST PICKING UP RETURNEES.

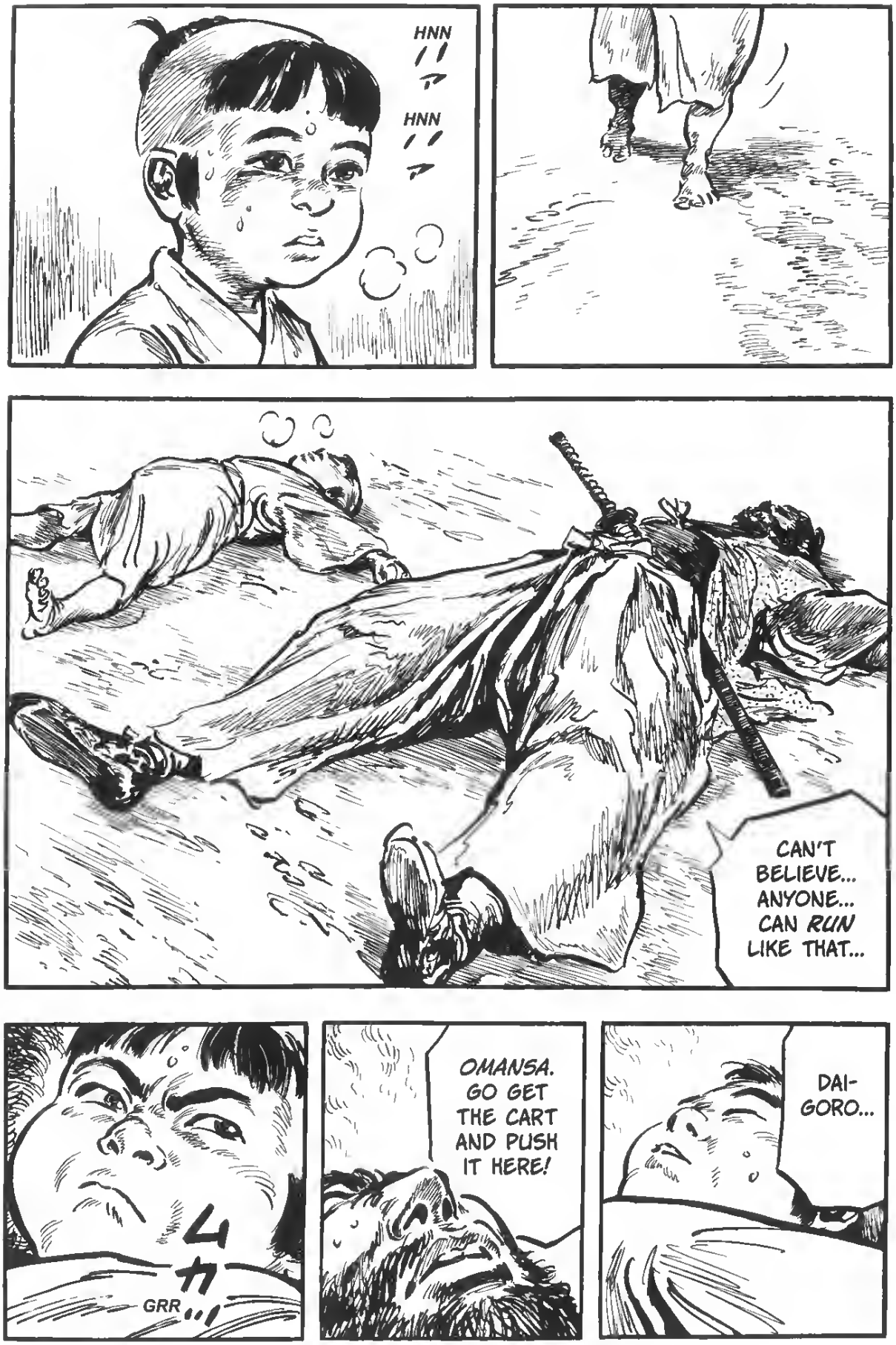
NO CAN DO WITHOUT LEGS LIKE MINE.
AND THE NEXT ONE'S IN *TWO MONTHS.*


BUT WATCH OUT FOR THE *KASHO-BUNA-BANSHO!*
BUT IF YOU CATCH A *SANJIKKOKU* FROM FUSHIMI KYŌBASHI MINAMI-ZUME TO ŌSAKA *TENMAN*, YOU CAN GET OFF PARTWAY AT HIRAKATA. YOU MIGHT *JUST* MAKE IT!

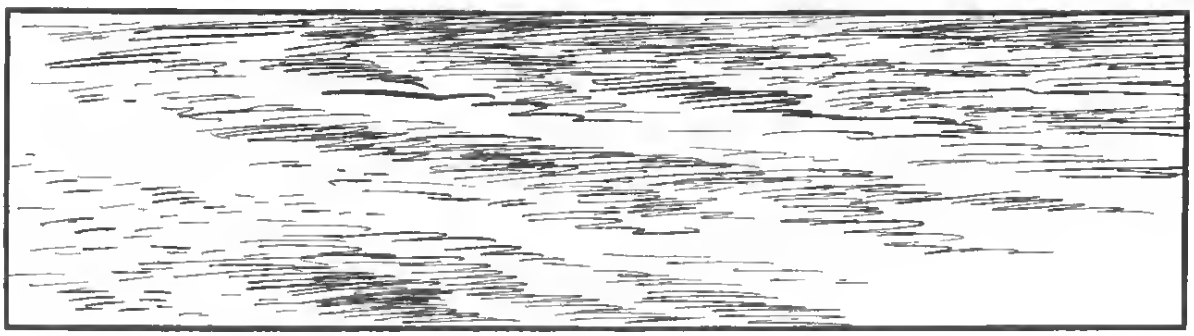
HFF
HFF
HFF

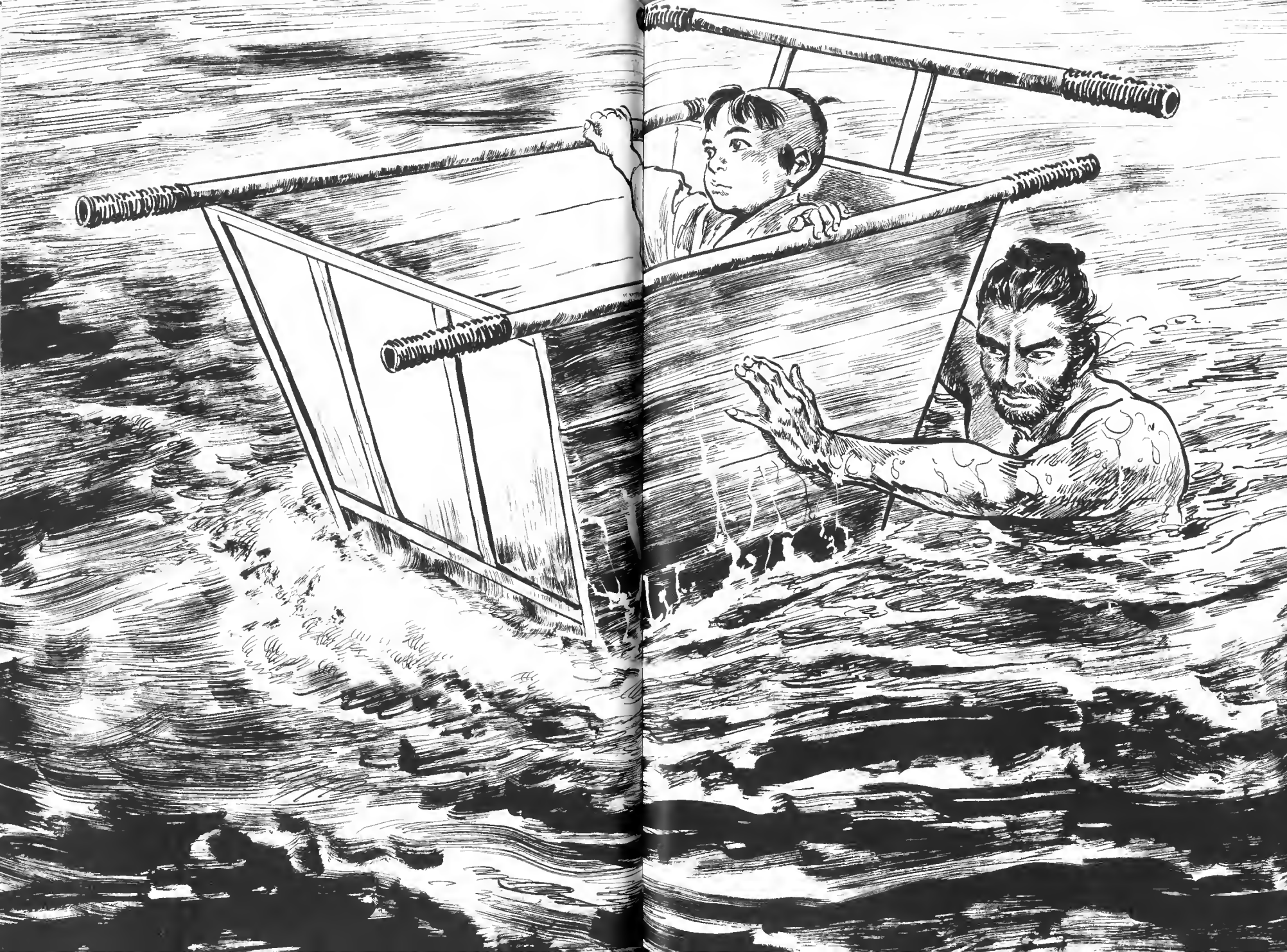
FMMP

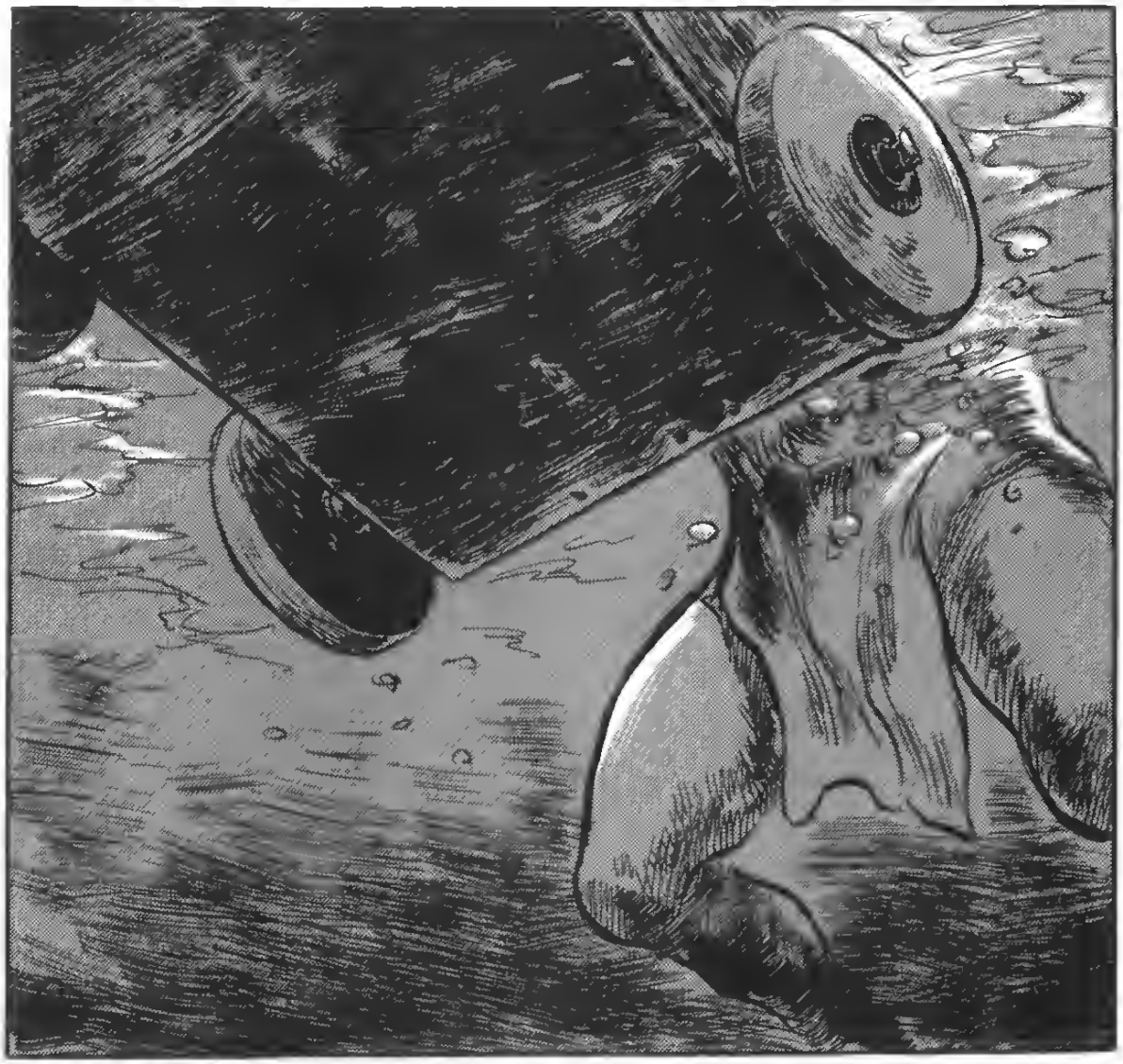


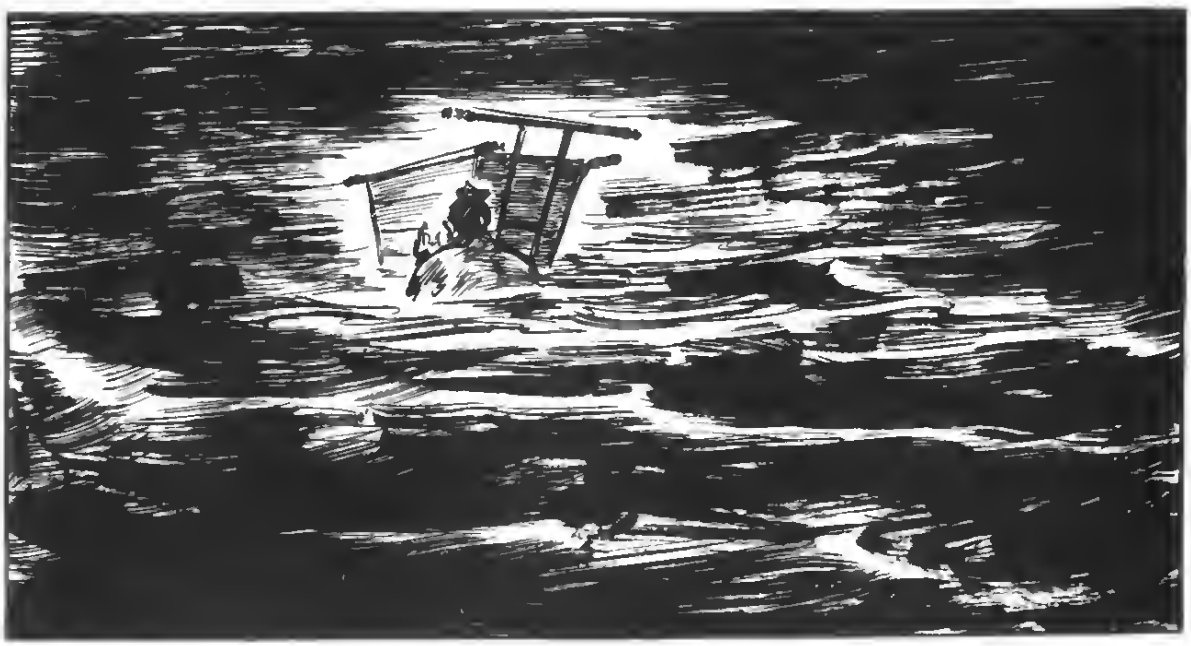

HNN
HNN
CAN'T BELIEVE... ANYONE... CAN *RUN* LIKE THAT...
GRR...!
OMANSA. GO GET THE CART AND PUSH IT HERE!
DAI-GORO...

NEVER MAKE IT... NOT THE NORMAL WAY...









THE SECOND: SWORD AND FIST. THE END.

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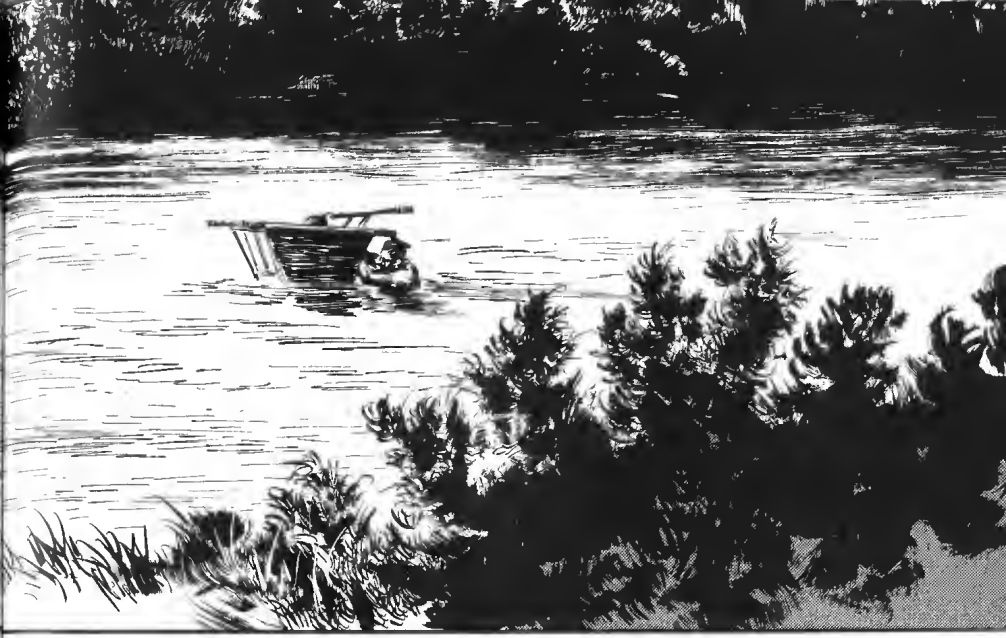
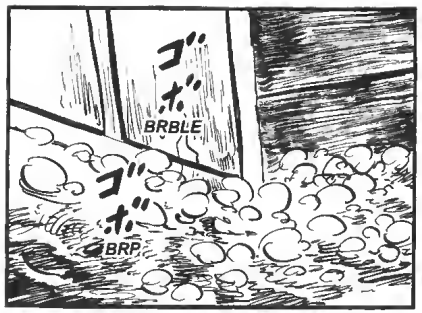
THE THIRD PAPA AND TECHO, PART 1

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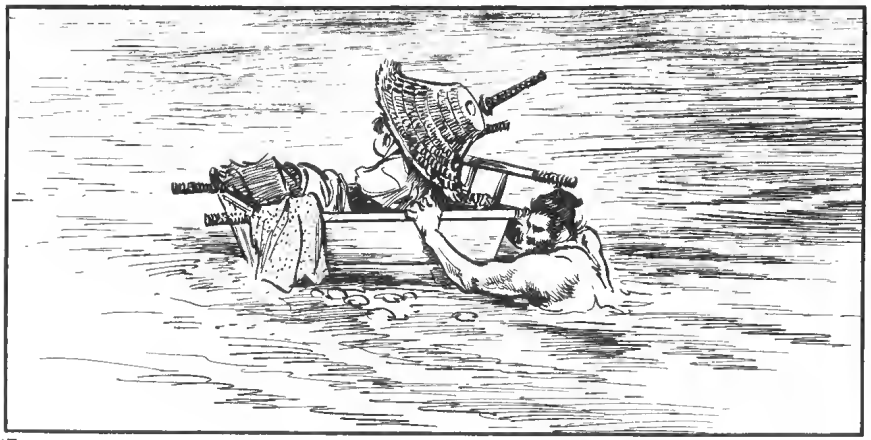

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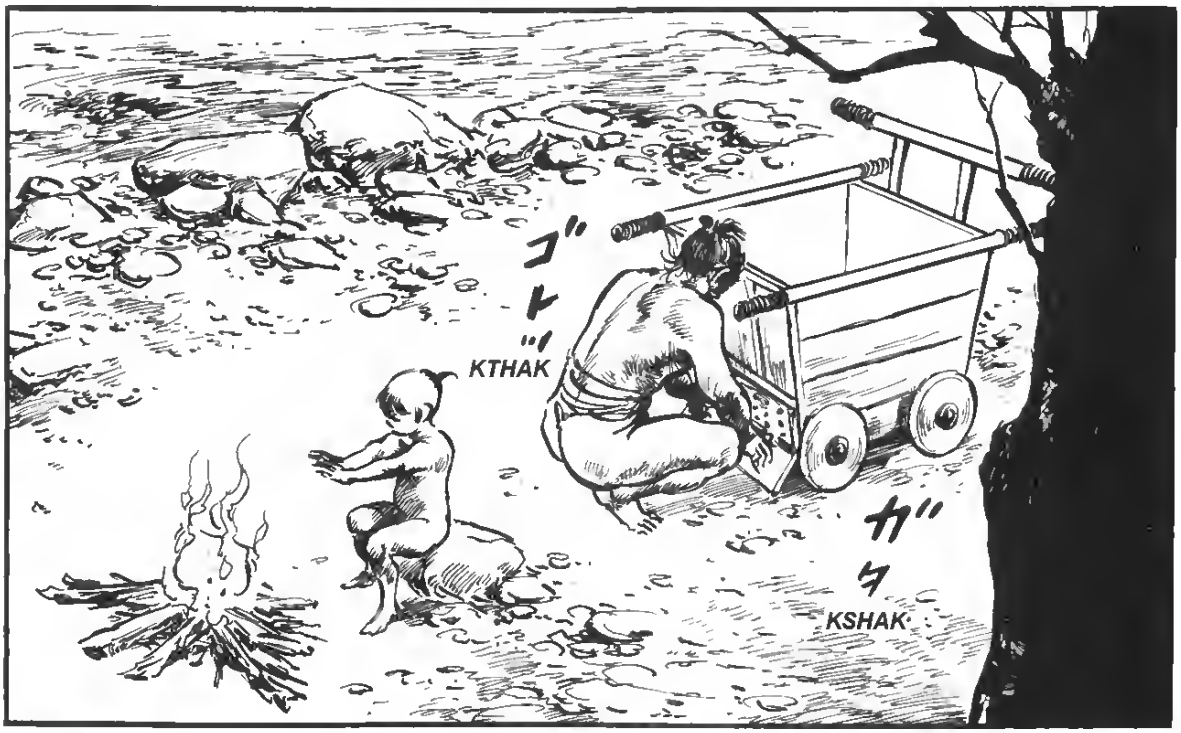
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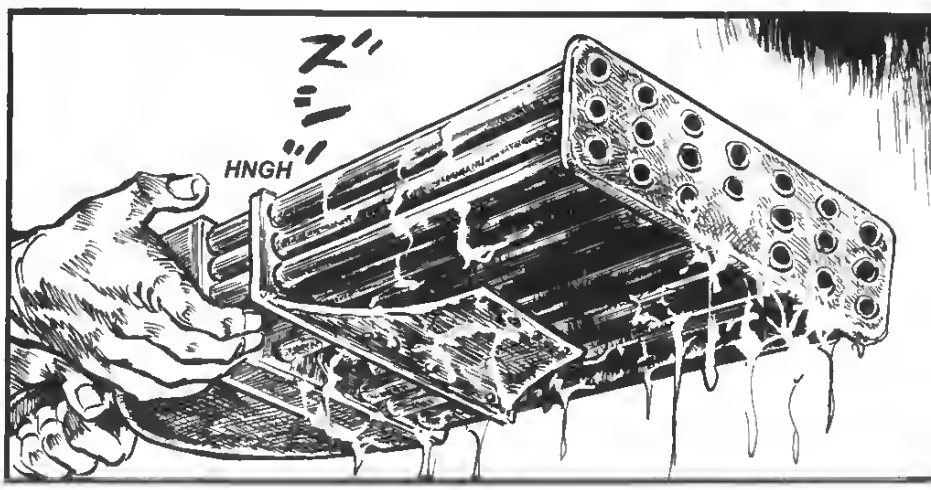
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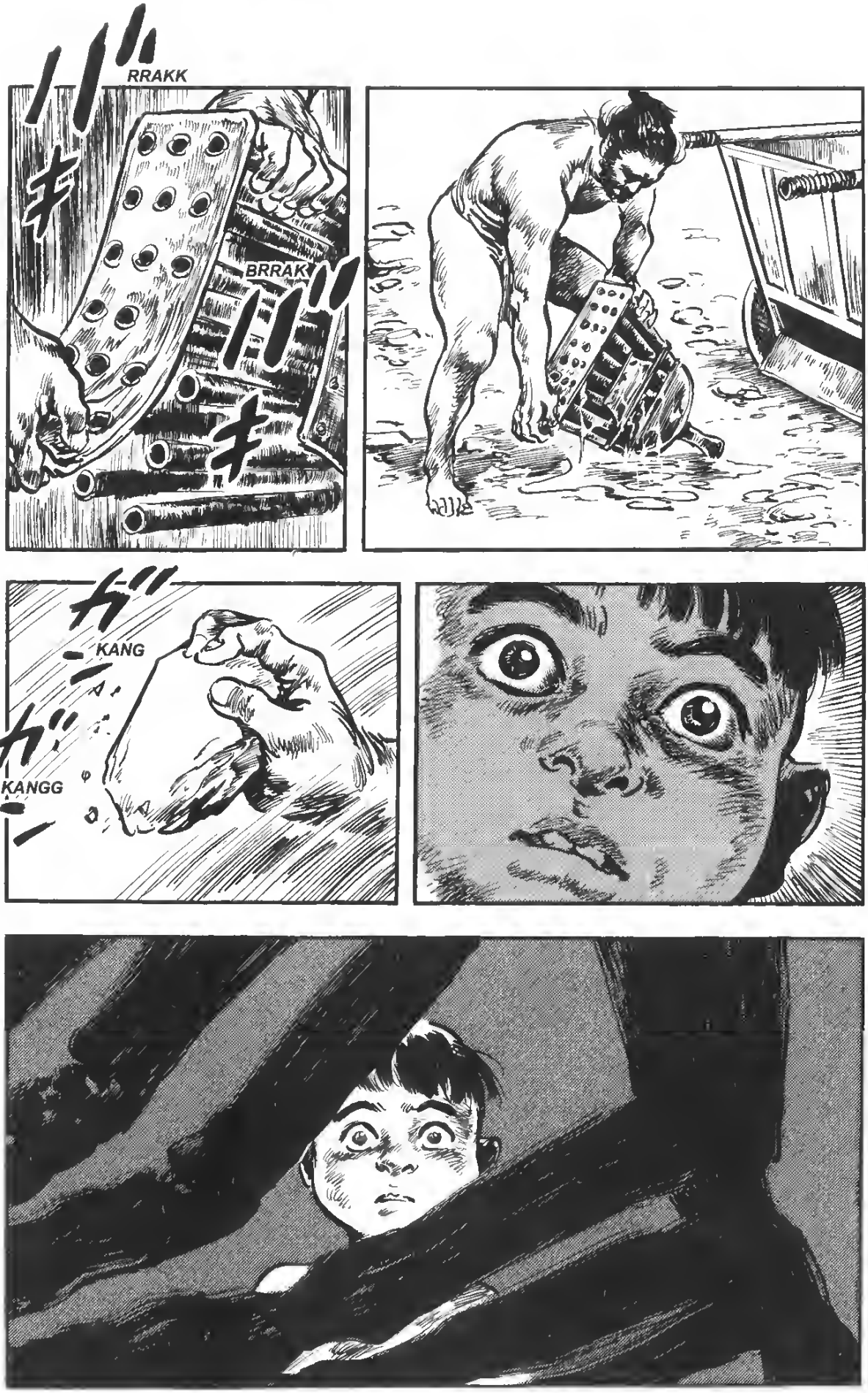
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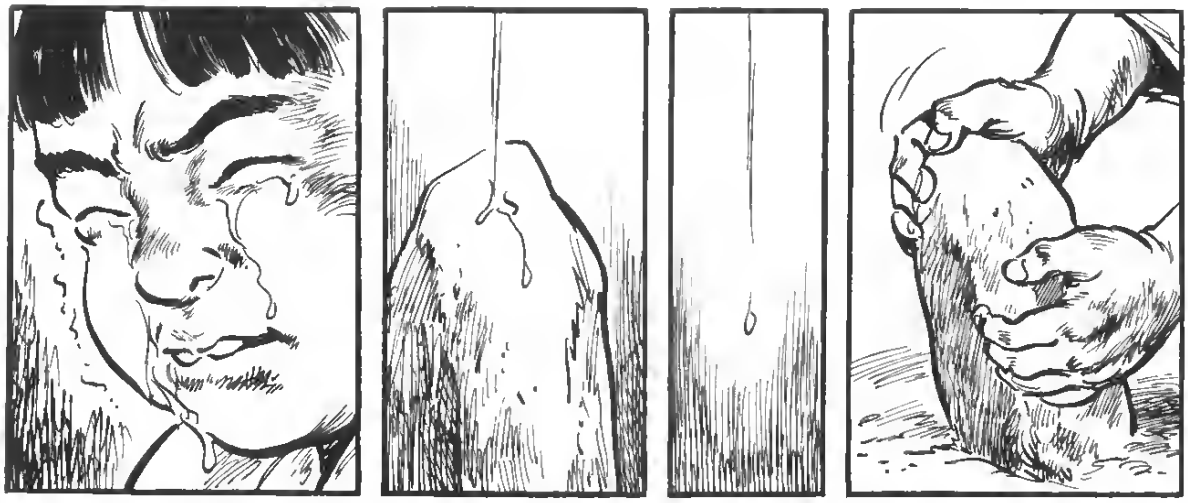
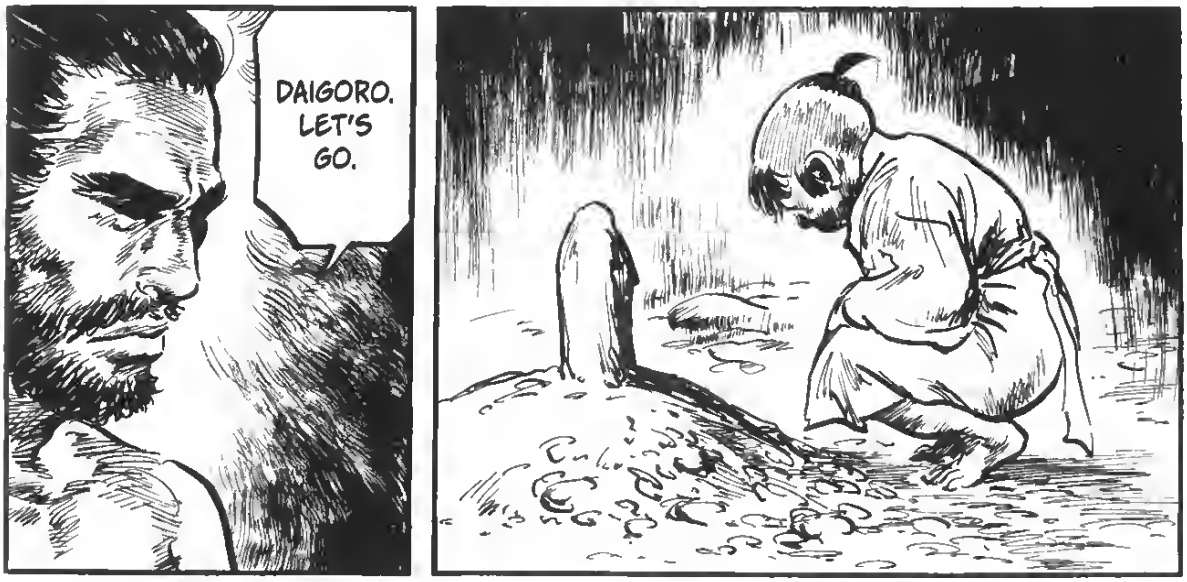
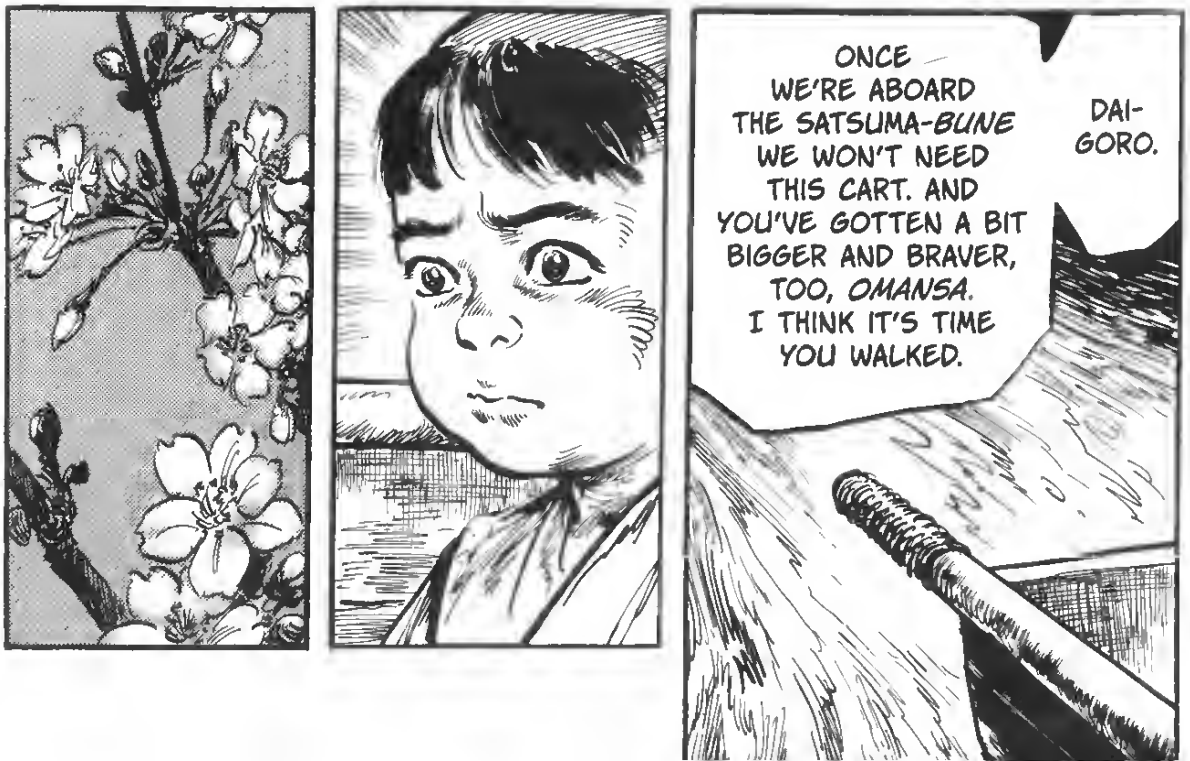
WMPP.

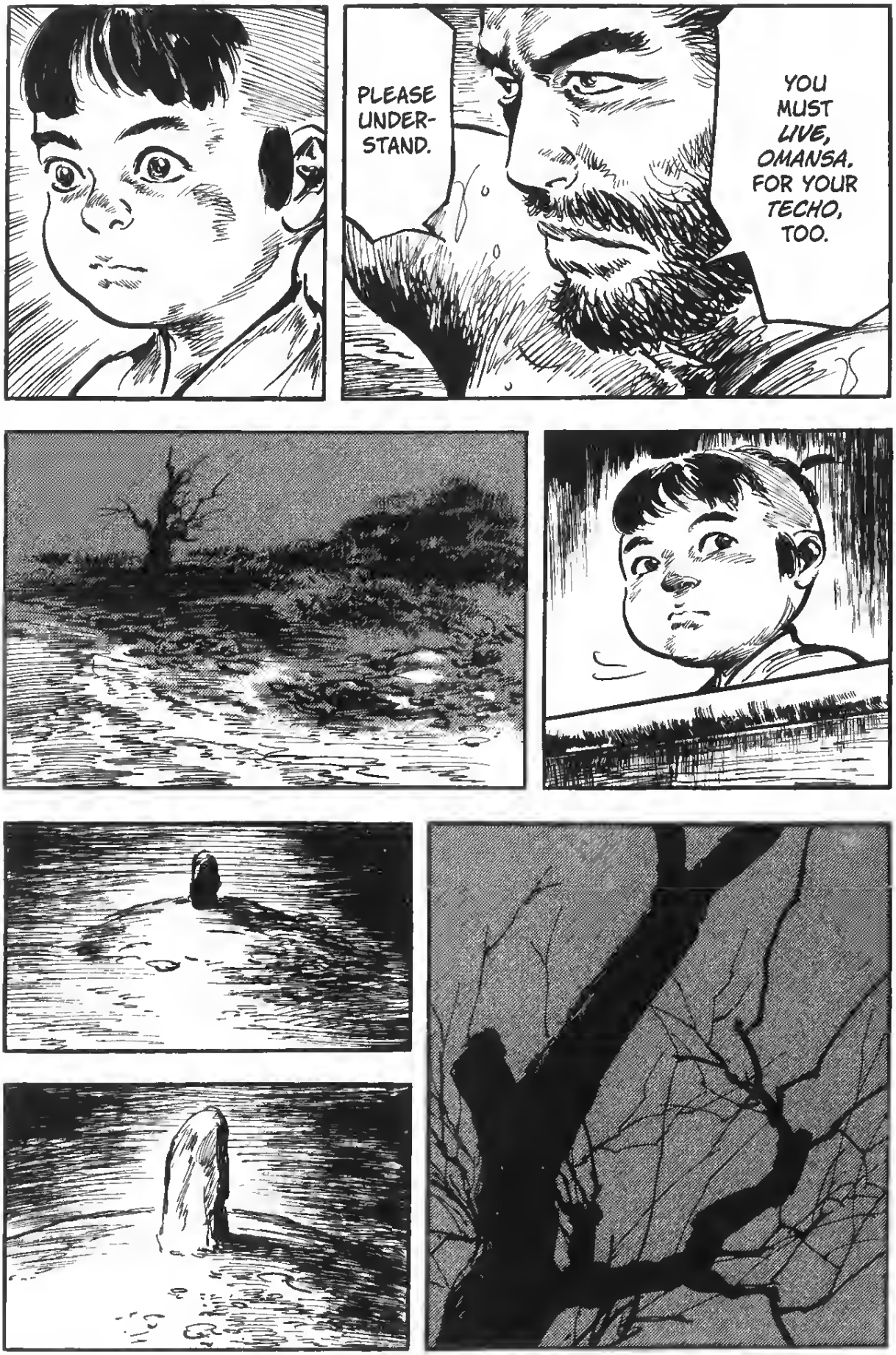



DAIGORO. LET'S GO.

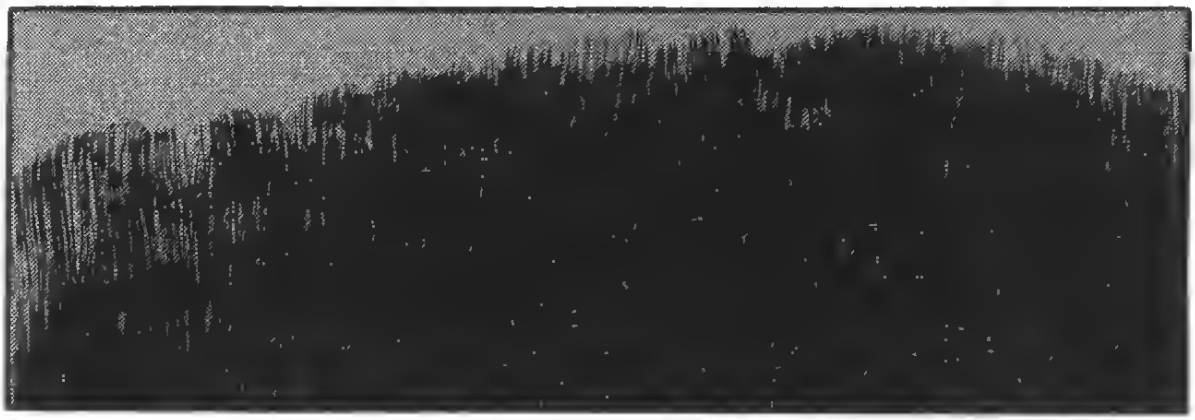

ONCE WE'RE ABOARD THE SATSUMA-*BUNE* WE WON'T NEED THIS CART. AND YOU'VE GOTTEN A BIT BIGGER AND BRAVER, TOO, *OMANSA*. I THINK IT'S TIME YOU WALKED.
DAI-GORO.

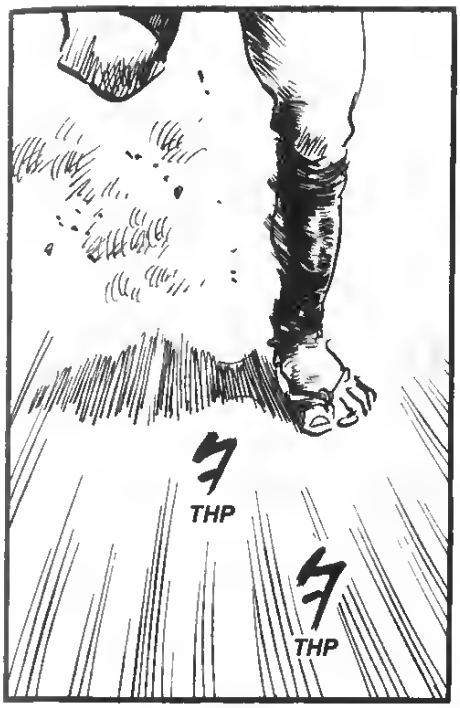
BURN THE PAST INTO YOUR *EYES.* HOLD IT IN YOUR *HEART.*
GROW EVEN BIGGER. STRONGER. BRAVER.
I DON'T KNOW *OMANSA'S TECHO.* NO ONE DOES.
ONLY *OMANSA* KNOWS HIM. YOUR *TECHO* IS IN *YOUR* HEART ALONE, *OMANSA.*
YOUR *TECHO* IS LIVING IN *OMANSA'S* HEART.

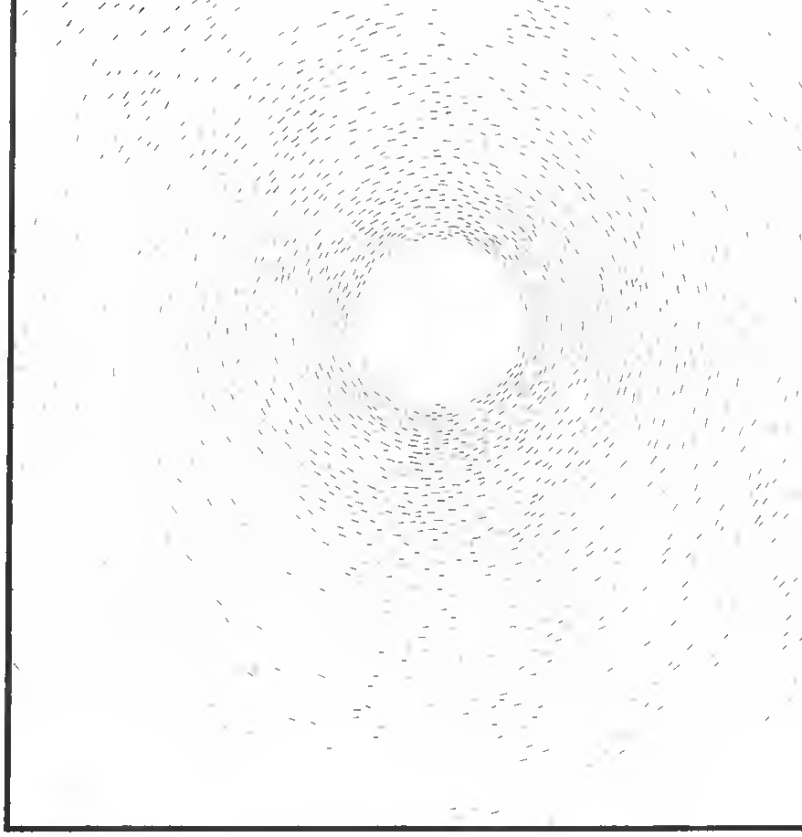
BUT IF *OMANSA* LIVES STRONG AND BRAVE, THEN YOUR *TECHO* CAN LIVE AS WELL.
IF *OMANSA* DIES, YOUR *TECHO* DIES. HE'LL VANISH FROM THIS WORLD WITH YOU.

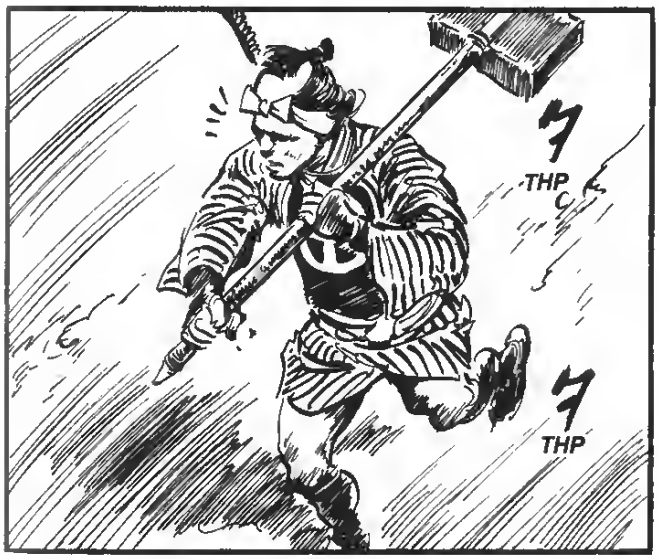

PLEASE UNDER-STAND.
YOU MUST *LIVE*, *OMANSA*. FOR YOUR *TECHO*, TOO.

ちゃあん
PAPAAAAA!!
HRMM... NOT TECHO. HE WAS PAPA.



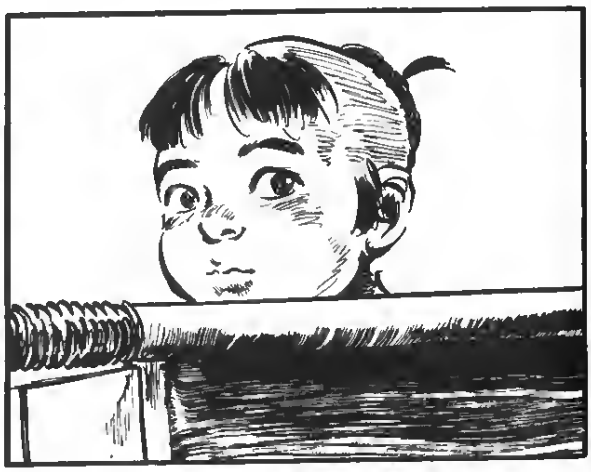

THP
THP




THP
THP

HNN?!
THERE WAS THAT WAY, TOO?!

YOHH-
HHH!!



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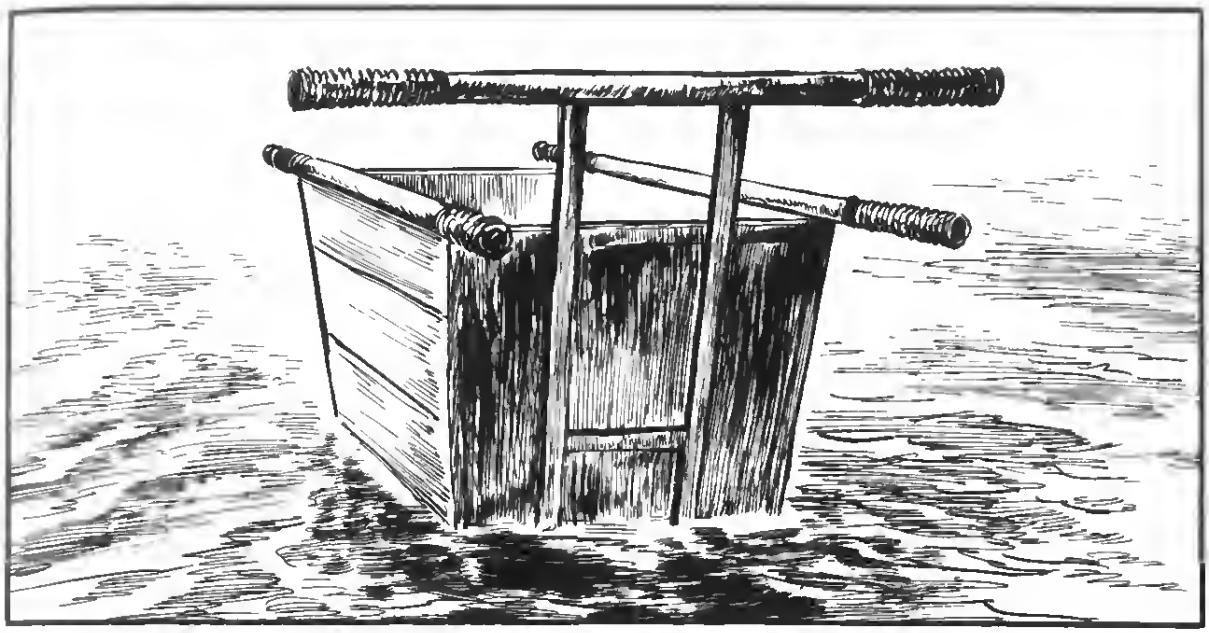
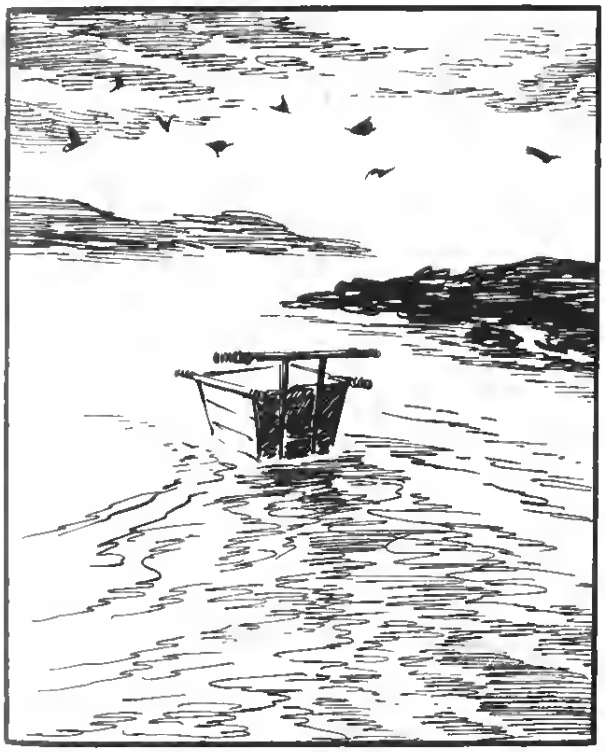
FWFFF

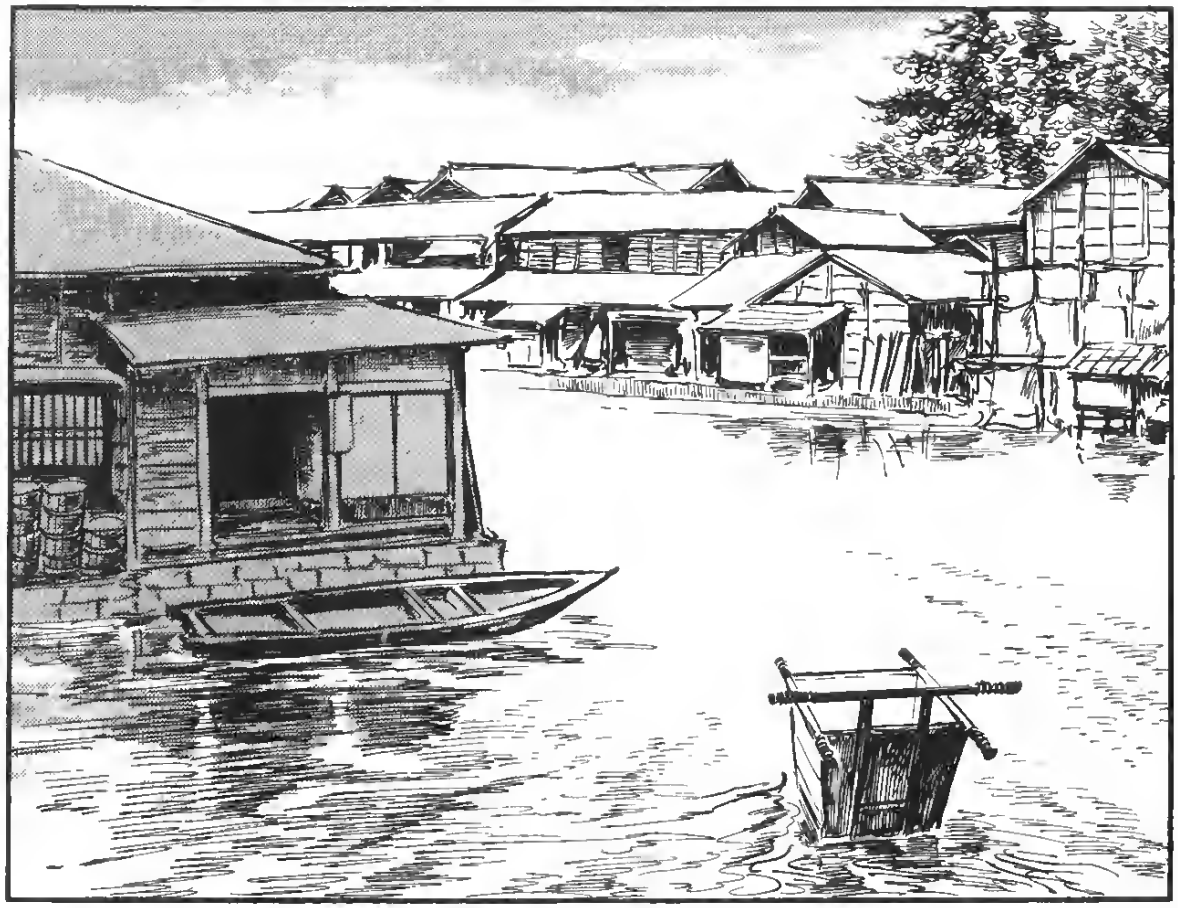
THAT'S...
A
SATSUMA
WARSHIP!

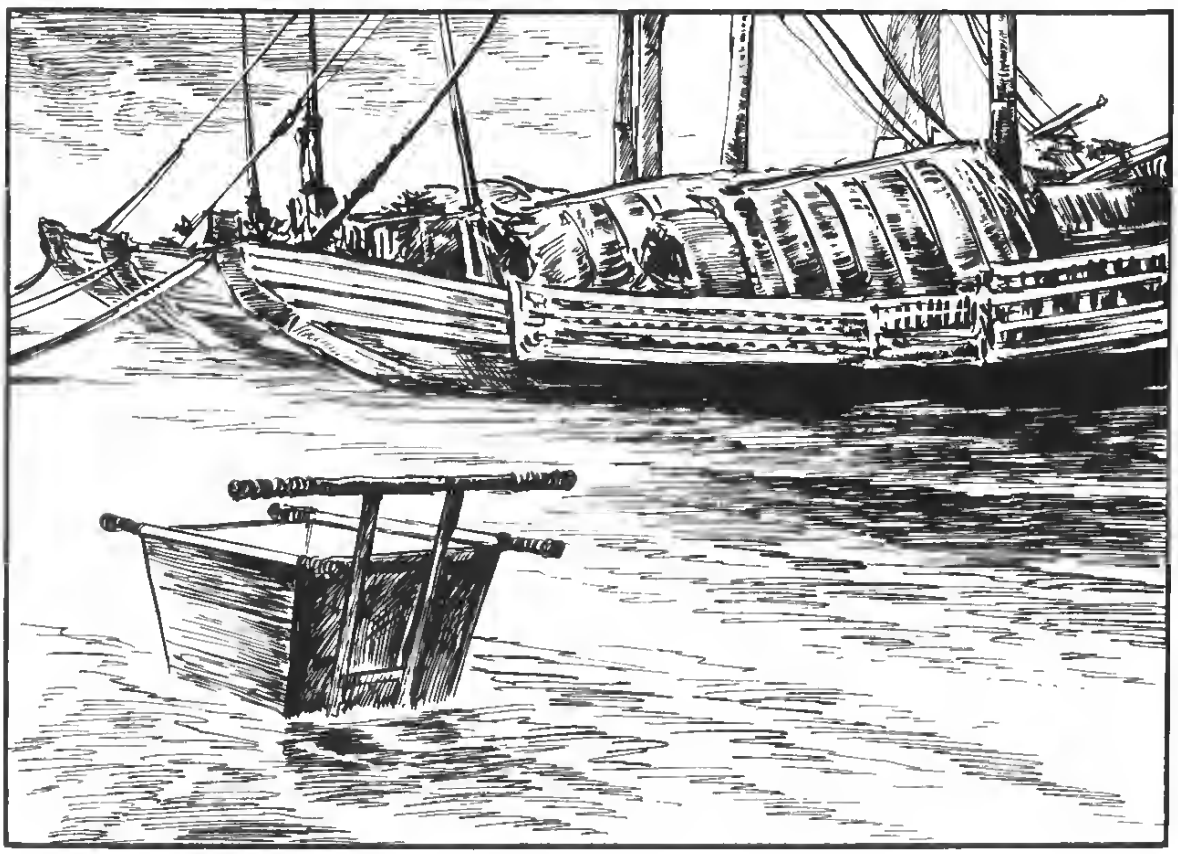
其之三 父ちゃんと父ちょ

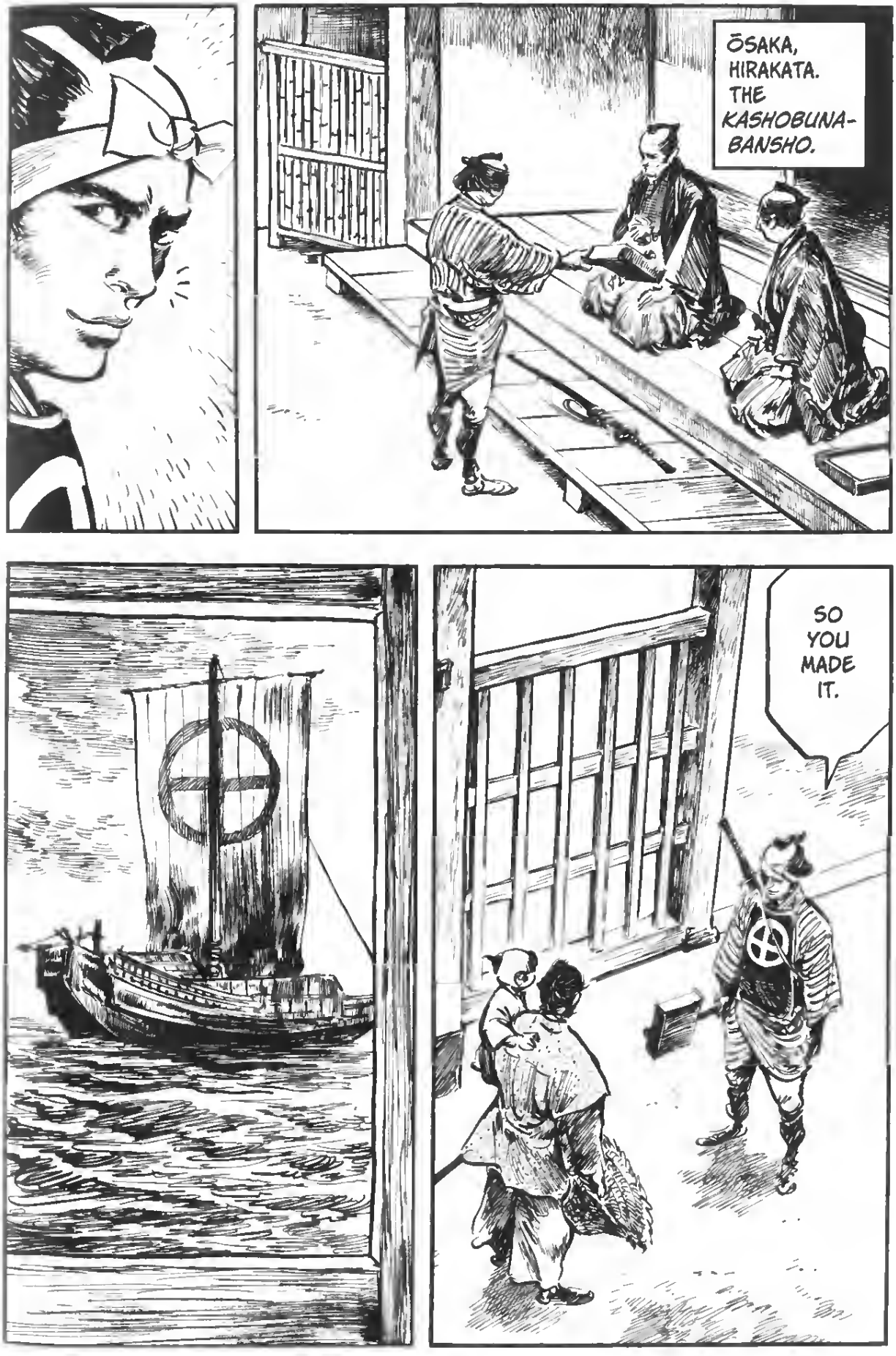
THE THIRD
PAPA AND *TECHO*,
PART 2

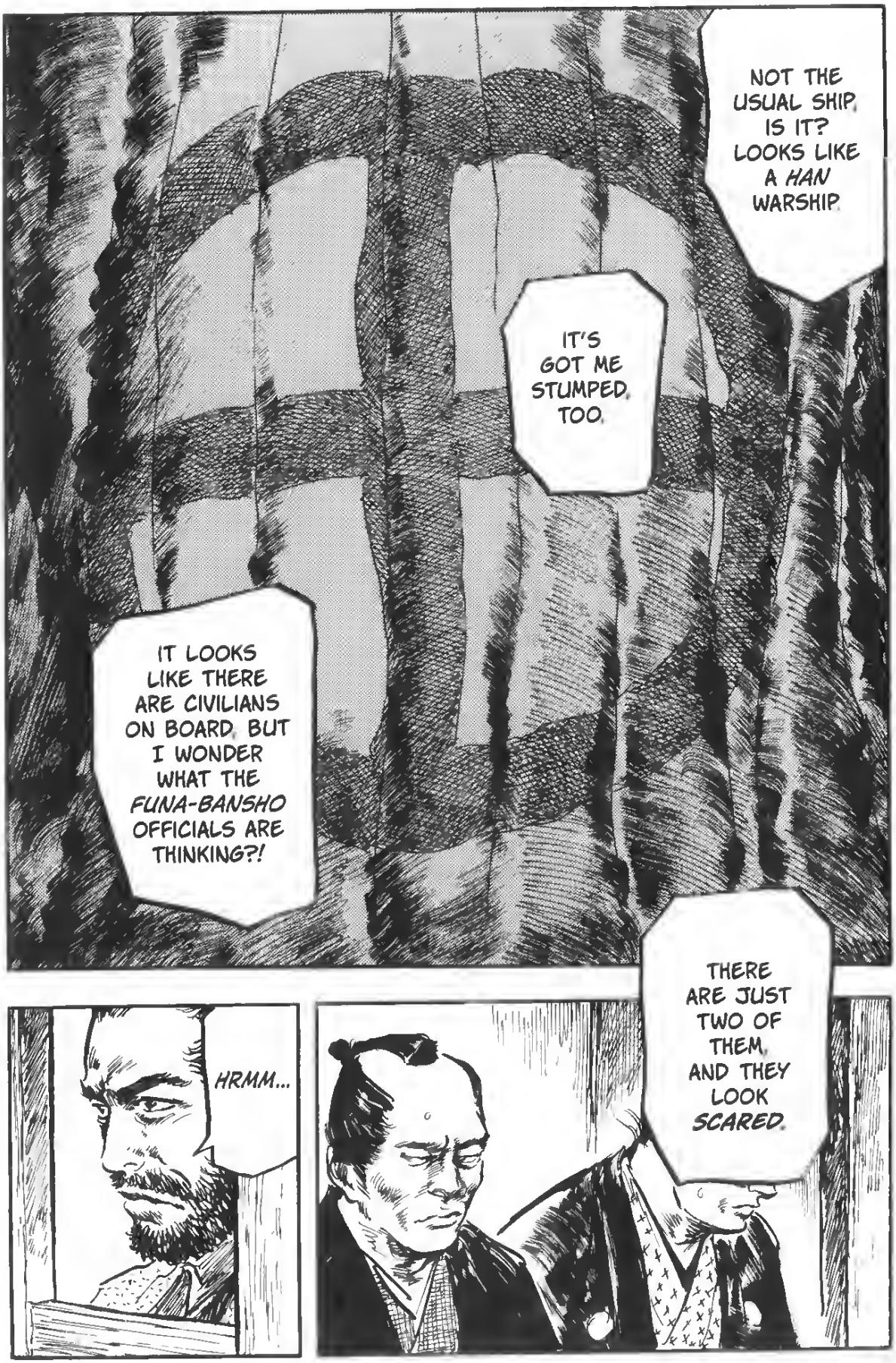


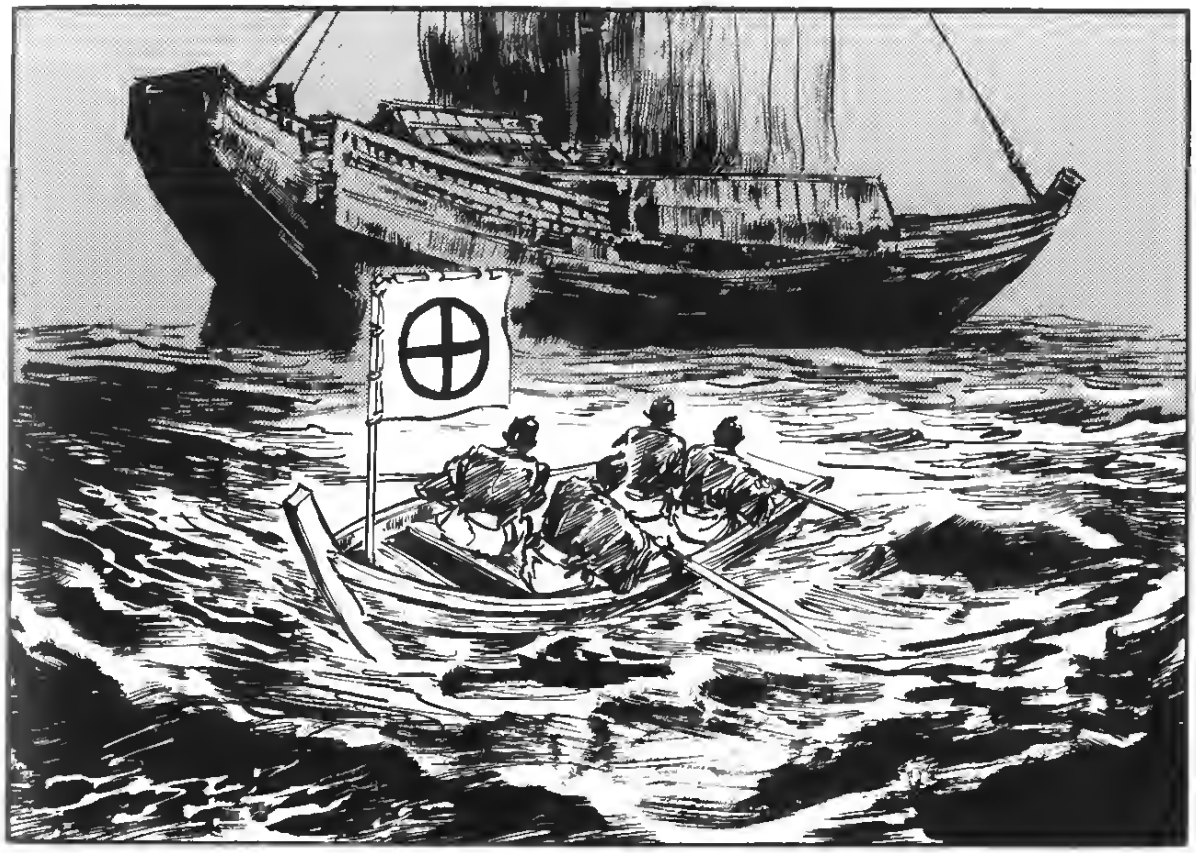







ŌSAKA, HIRAKATA. THE KASHOBUNA-BANSHO.
SO YOU MADE IT.


NOT THE USUAL SHIP, IS IT? LOOKS LIKE A *HAN* WARSHIP.
IT'S GOT ME STUMPED, TOO.
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE CIVILIANS ON BOARD, BUT I WONDER WHAT THE *FUNA-BANSHO* OFFICIALS ARE THINKING?!
HRMM...
THERE ARE JUST TWO OF THEM, AND THEY LOOK *SCARED.*



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KRIIK
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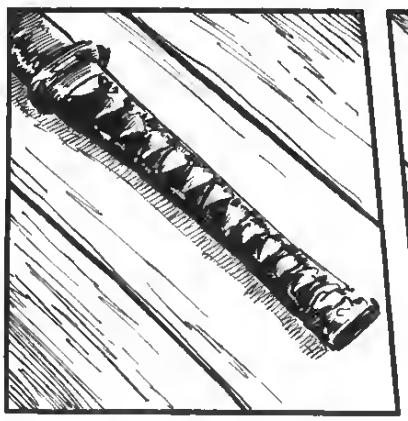
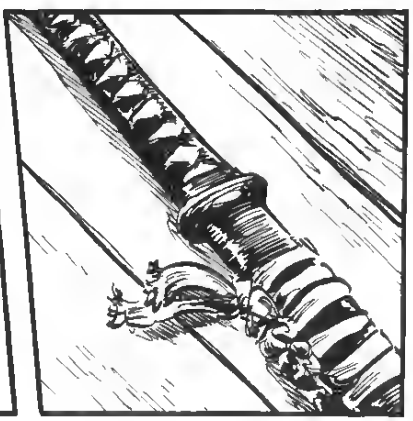
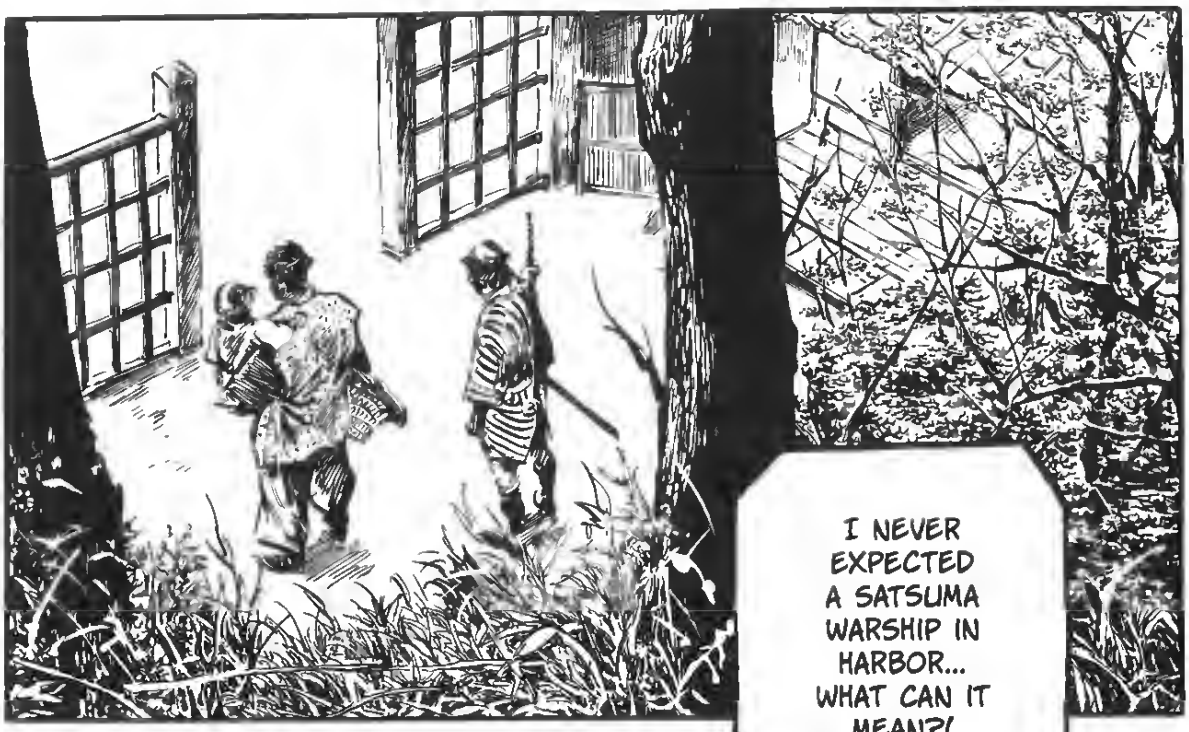
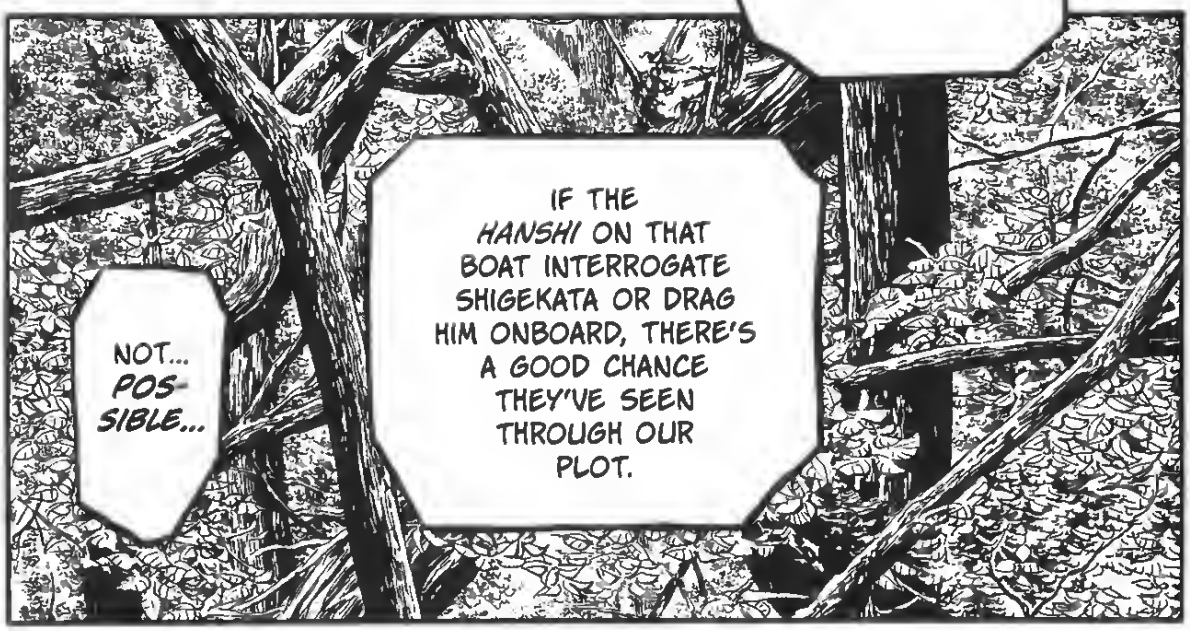
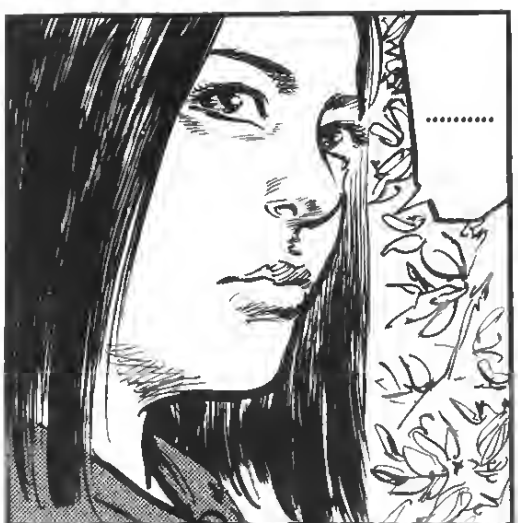


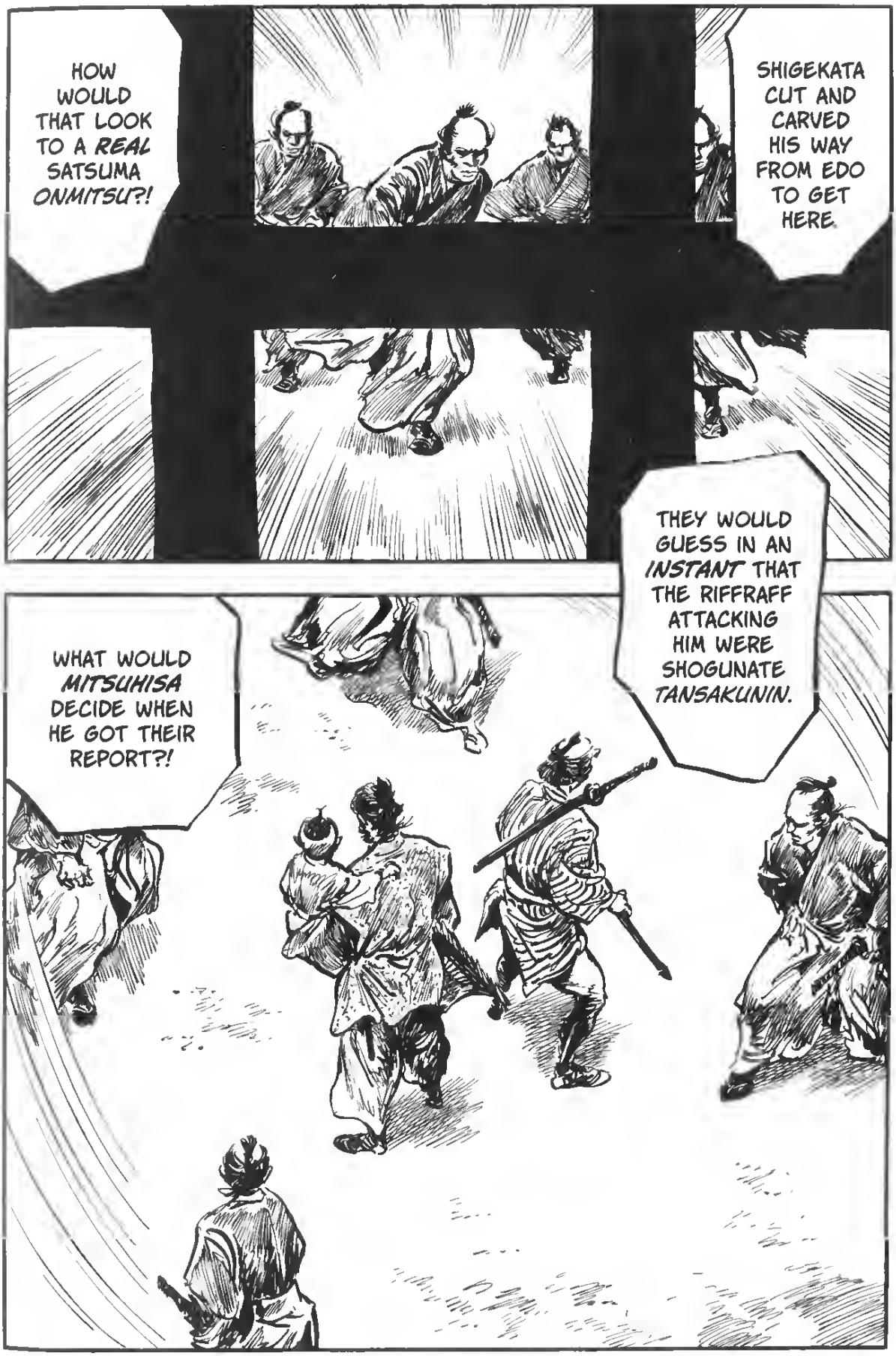



I NEVER EXPECTED A SATSUMA WARSHIP IN HARBOR... WHAT CAN IT MEAN?!


IF THE *HANSHI* ON THAT BOAT INTERROGATE SHIGEKATA OR DRAG HIM ONBOARD, THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THEY'VE SEEN THROUGH OUR PLOT.
NOT... *POS-SIBLE...*


.....

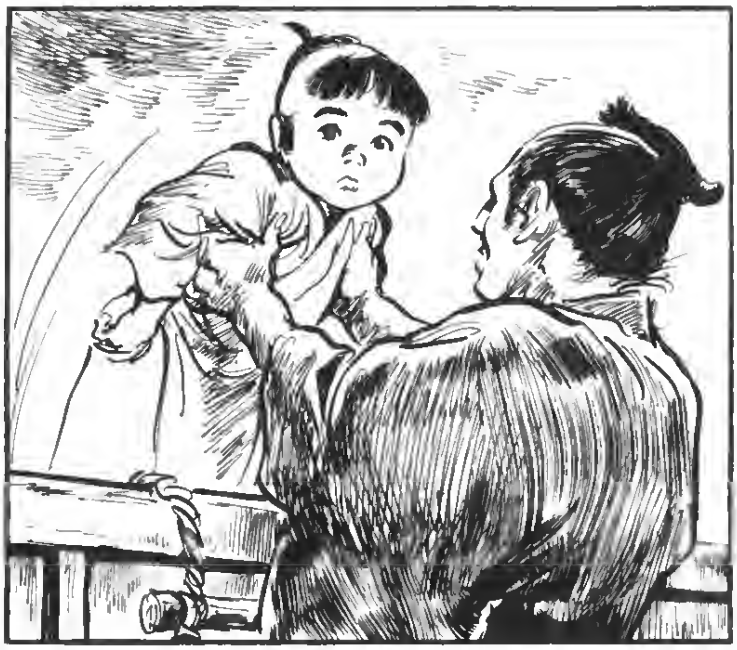
THE SCHEMER CAUGHT BY HER SCHEMES. TAKEHIME-*DONO*, YOU'RE UP AGAINST *SHIMAZU MITSUHISA!*


HOW WOULD THAT LOOK TO A *REAL* SATSUMA *ONMITSU*?!
SHIGEKATA CUT AND CARVED HIS WAY FROM EDO TO GET HERE.
THEY WOULD GUESS IN AN *INSTANT* THAT THE RIFFRAFF ATTACKING HIM WERE SHOGUNATE *TANSAKUNIN*.
WHAT WOULD *MITSUHISA* DECIDE WHEN HE GOT THEIR REPORT?!

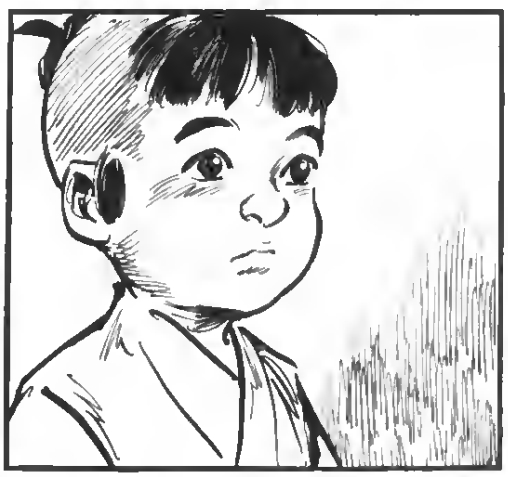
IT SEEMS MY READING WAS CORRECT...
ボ" キ" KRIK
ボ" キ" KRAK
IF YOU'VE BLUNDERED, TAKE-DONO, IT WILL TAKE MORE LIVES THAN YOU HAVE LEFT TO ATONE!
TAKE-DONO!! HOW MANY OF YOUR PEOPLE HAVE YOU SENT TO THE NEXT WORLD?!

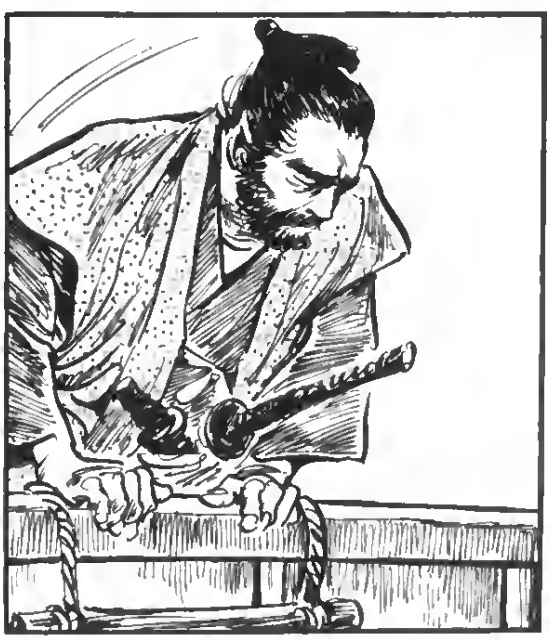
ちえいッ!!
HEAVE HO!
ちえいッ!!
HEAVE HO!
ちえいッ!!
HEAVE HO!

GRIN



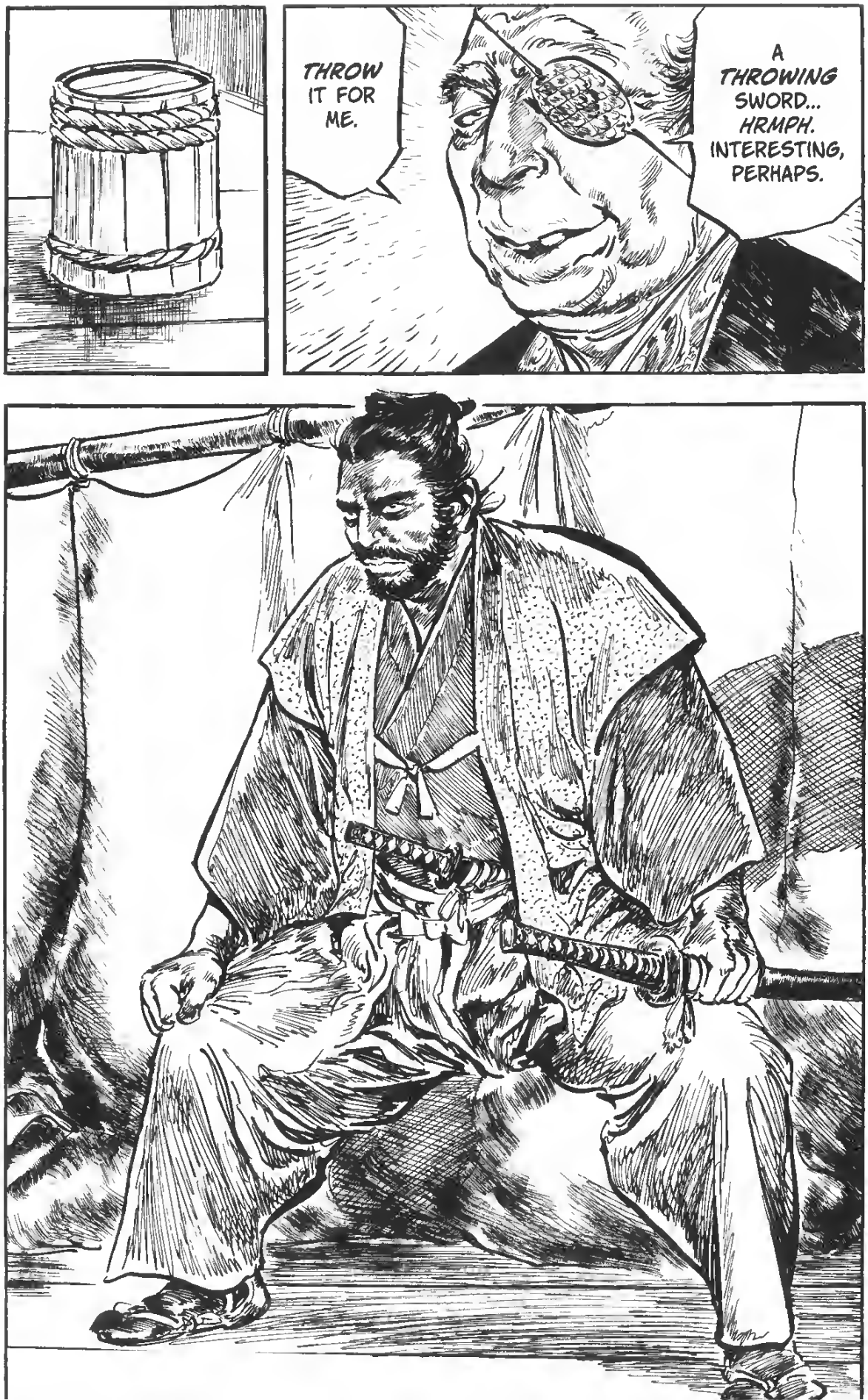
SILENCE. LET IT PASS.
HOW DARE --!!

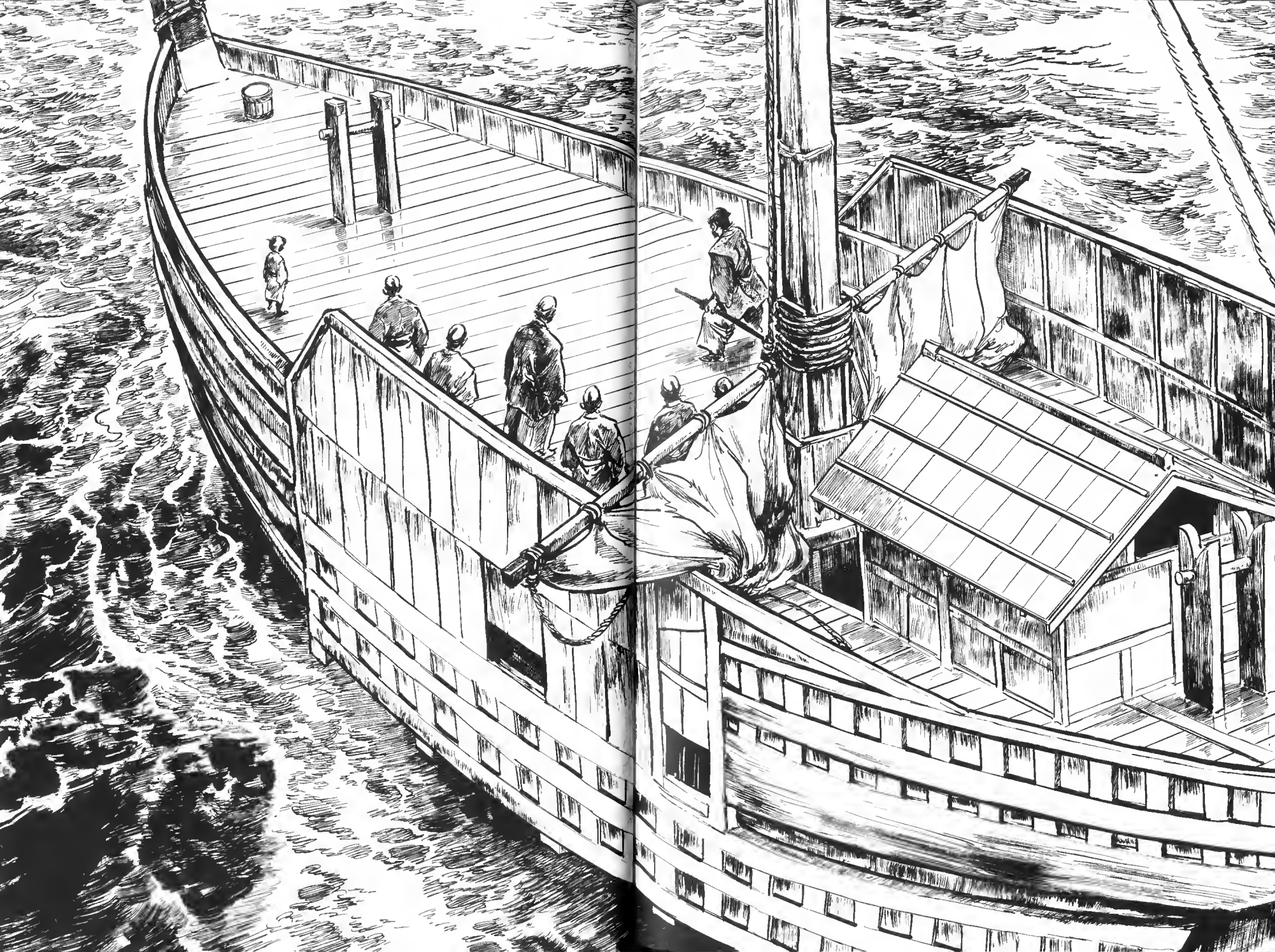


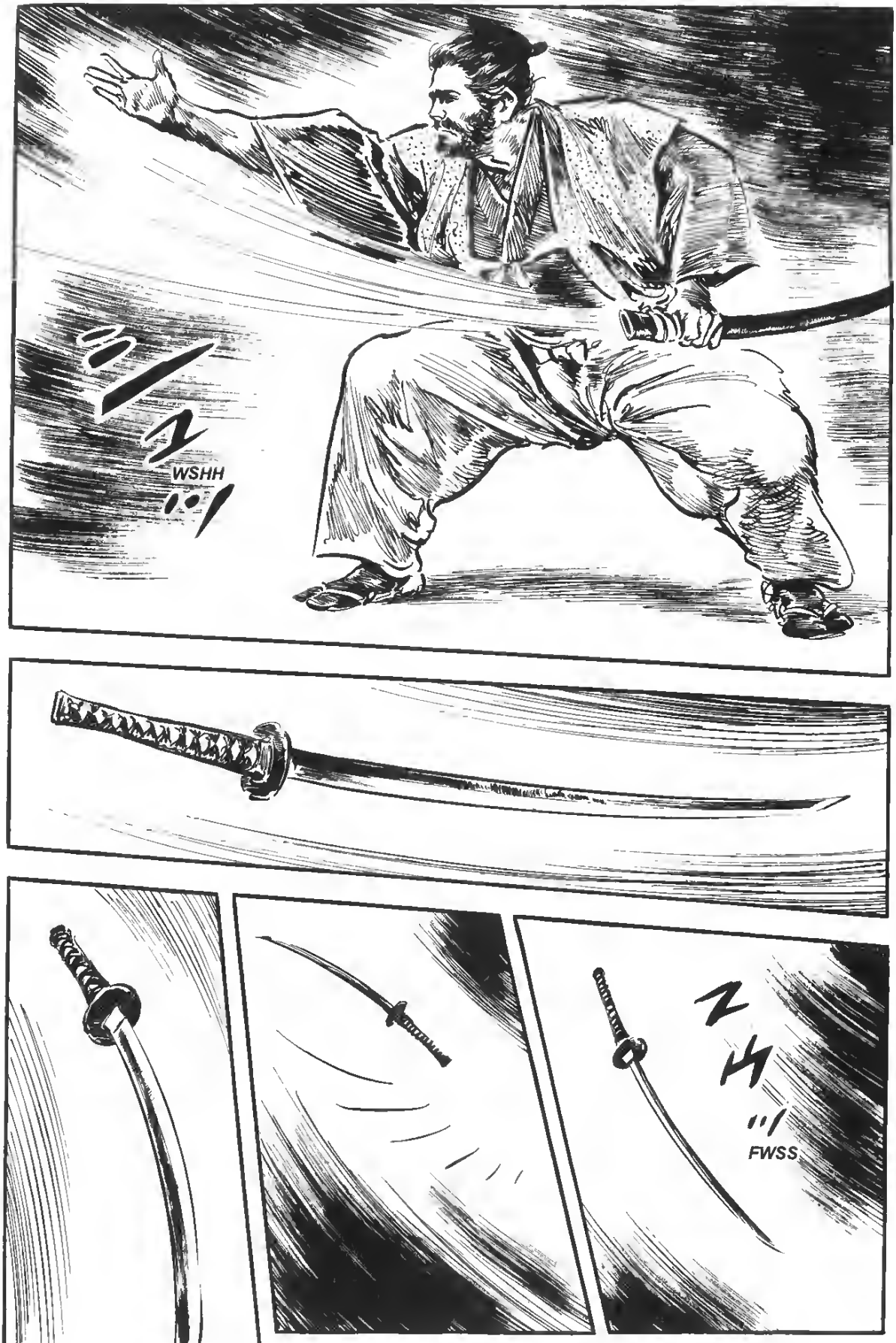


HRM! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU WELL.
AN UNDESERVED HONOR, GO-RŌKŌ-SAMA. SHIGEKATA'S HEART LEAPS TO LOOK UPON YOUR AUGUST FACE AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.
MY LORD ?!
BUT BEFORE I CAN ACCEPT YOUR SWORD, A QUESTION.
I HAVE NOT TIED MY SCABBARD AS I AM ON A WARRIOR'S PILGRIMAGE. I RECEIVED GO-RŌKŌ-SAMA'S GRACIOUS PERMISSION FOR THAT JOURNEY. IN NO WAY HAVE I ABANDONED SATSUMA.
A MAN OF SATSUMA, AND ONE WHO HAS TAUGHT EVEN ME THE SWORD. WHY NO SATSUMA GOSHIRAE?!

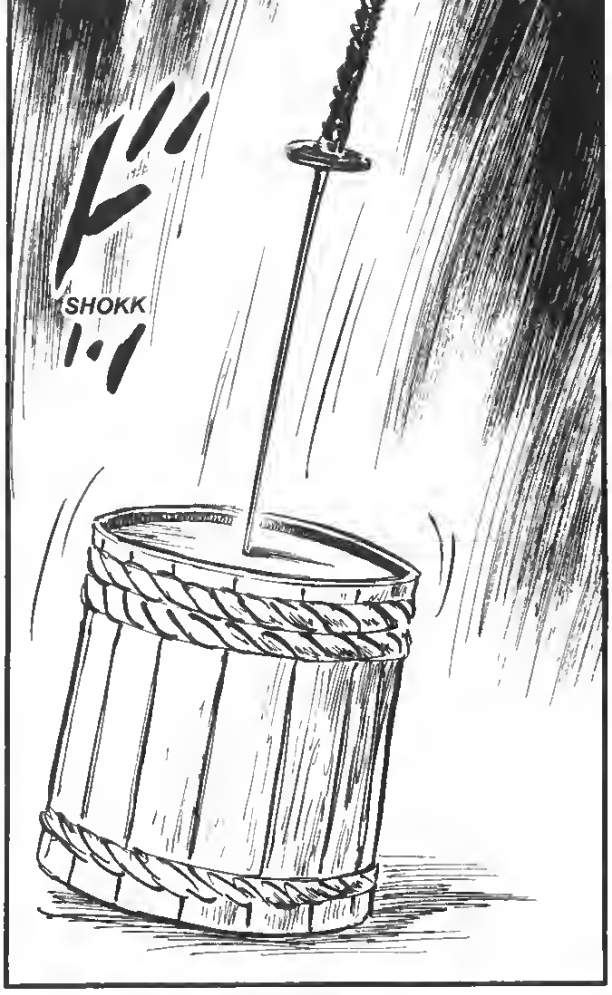
JIGEN-RYŪ TEACHES THERE IS NO DEFENSE, ONLY ATTACK! HENCE NO TSUBA! THAT GIANT TSUBA PROVES YOU'VE ABANDONED JIGEN-RYŪ!
I DEVISED A TECHNIQUE FOR THROWING THE TACHI. IT REQUIRES A HEAVIER TSUBA, SO I'VE MADE IT LARGER.
IF MY LORD DESIRES, I SHALL DEMON-STRATE.


THROW IT FOR ME.
A THROWING SWORD... HRMPH. INTERESTING, PERHAPS.



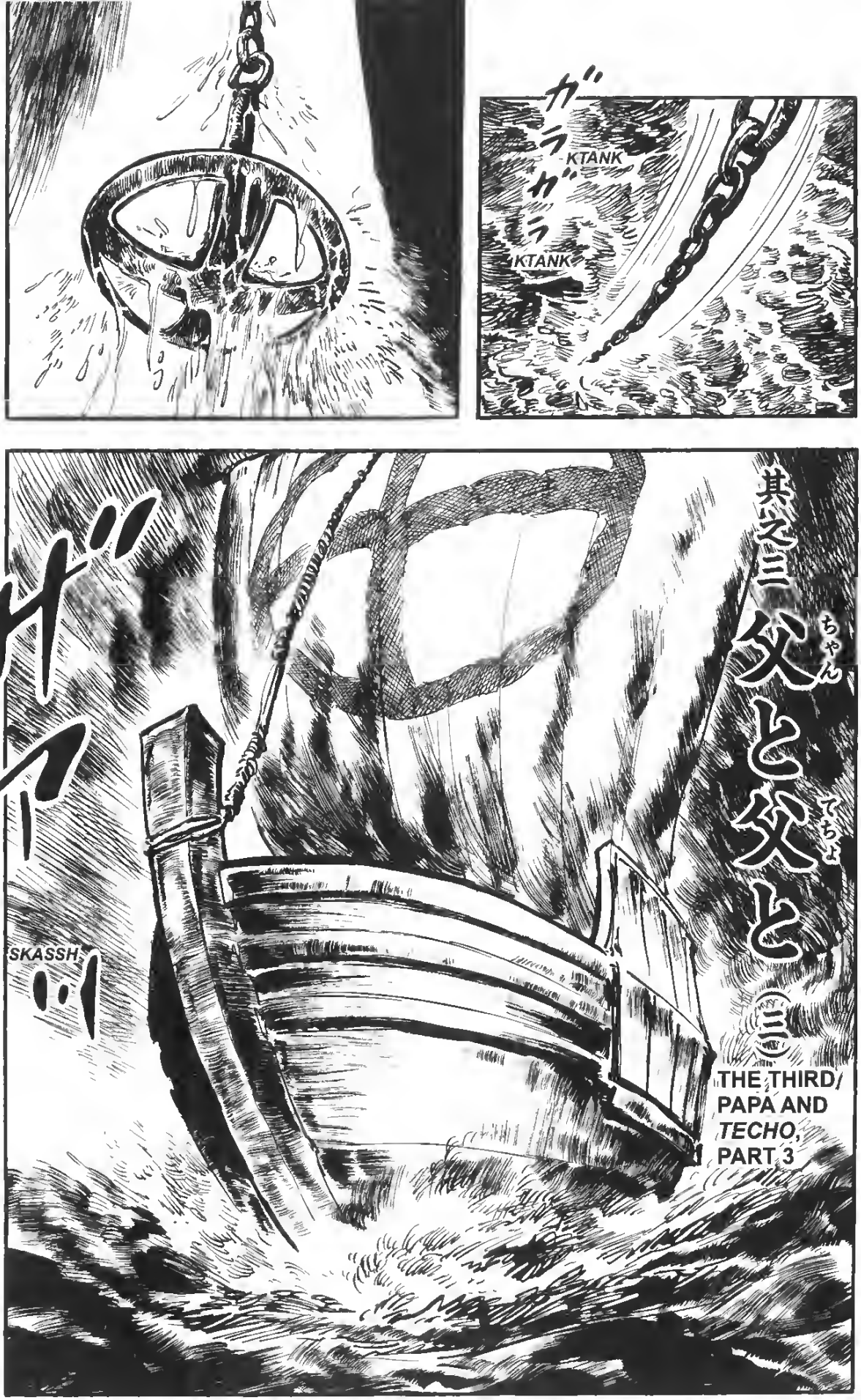

WSHH
FWSS

お
OHH!!


ド
SHOKK

THUS I DECIDED TO COME *MYSELF.* TO INVESTIGATE THIS MATTER *THOROUGHLY.*
SHIGEKATA. THERE WERE SUSPICIONS YOU *TWO* MIGHT BE SHOGUNATE *ONMITSU.*

CHINKE-BON! YOUR NAME?!
DEPENDING ON WHAT I FIND, YOUR FANCY THROWING SWORD MAY BE FOR NAUGHT.
ŌGAMI. DAIGORO.

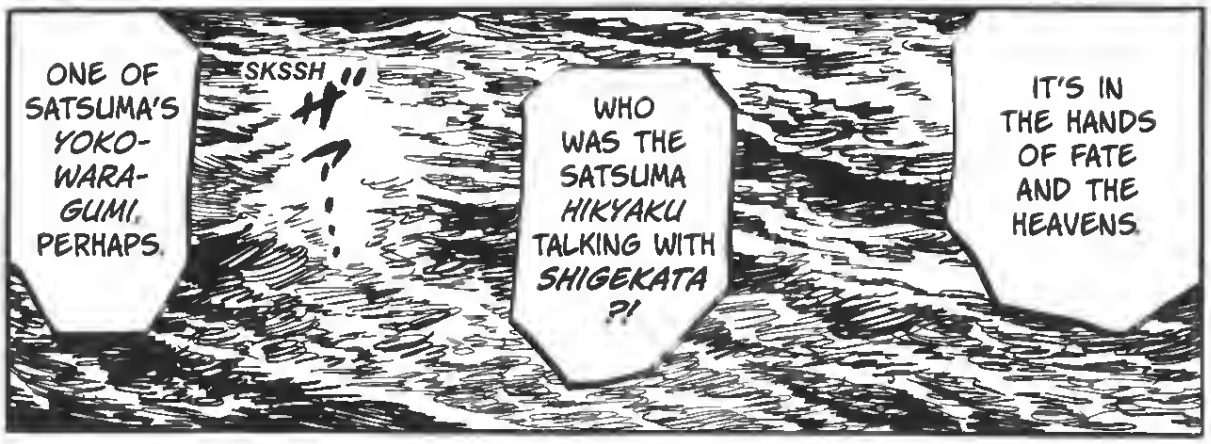


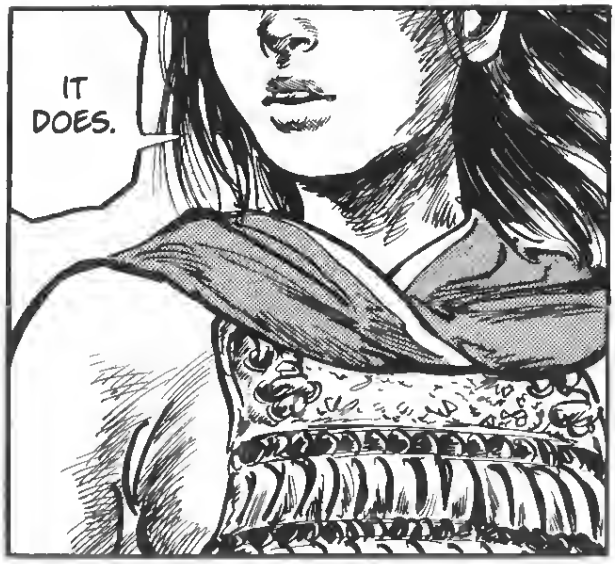
其之三 父(ちゃん)と父(てちょ)と

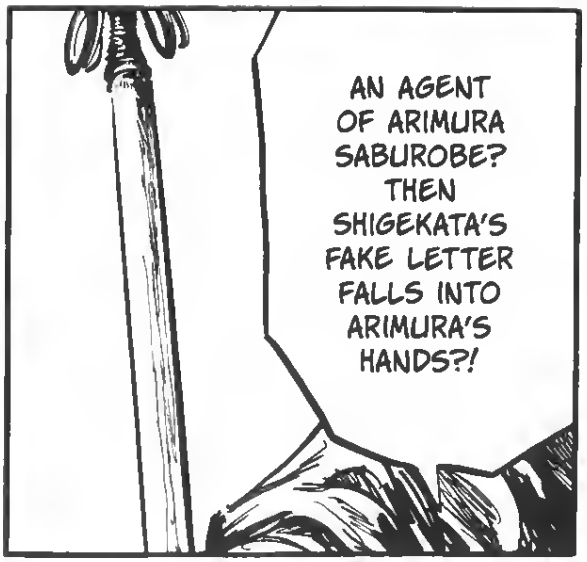
(三)

THE THIRD/ PAPA AND *TECHO*, PART 3

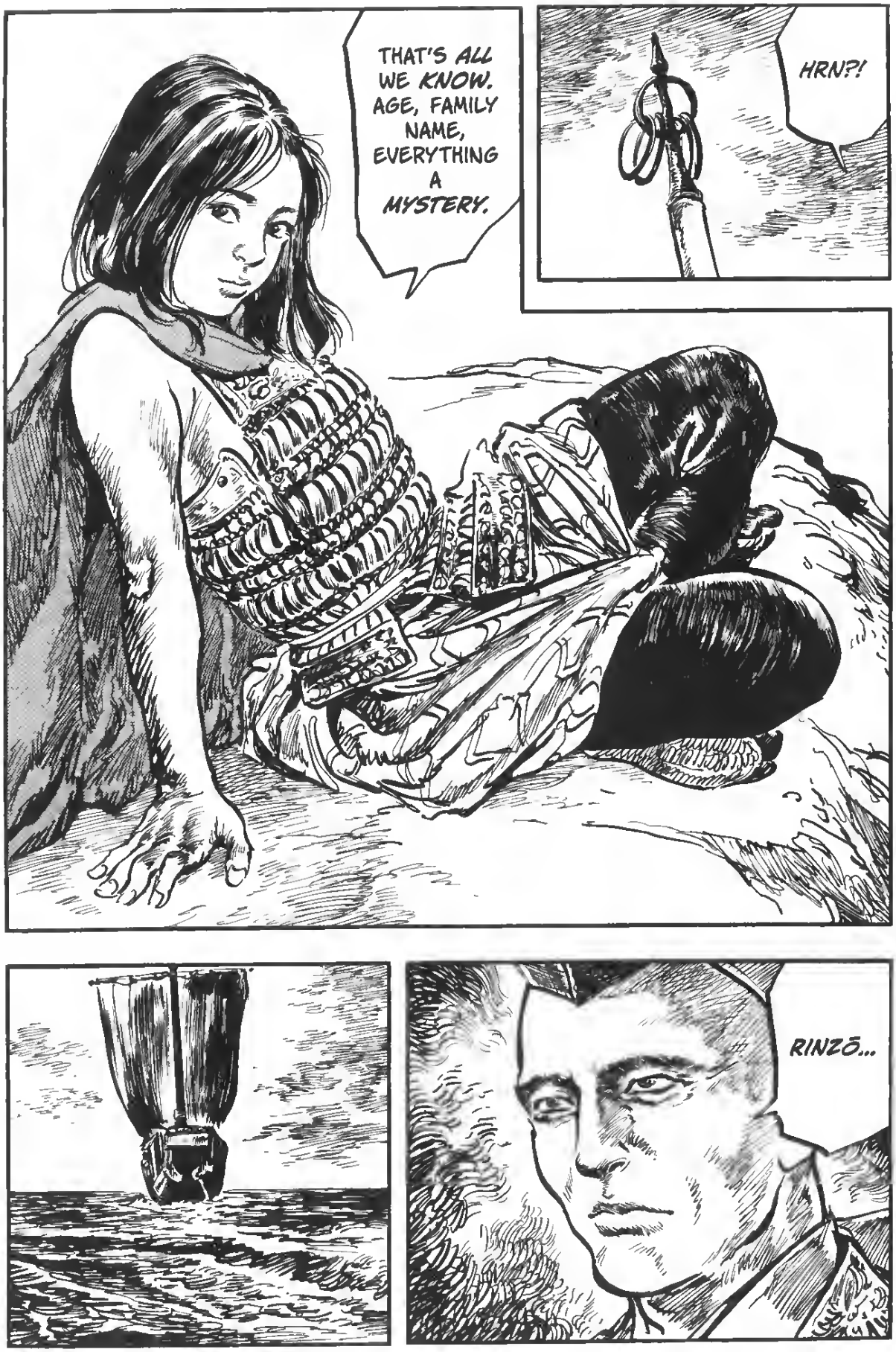
WHATEVER COMES, WE HAVE DONE ALL WE CAN...

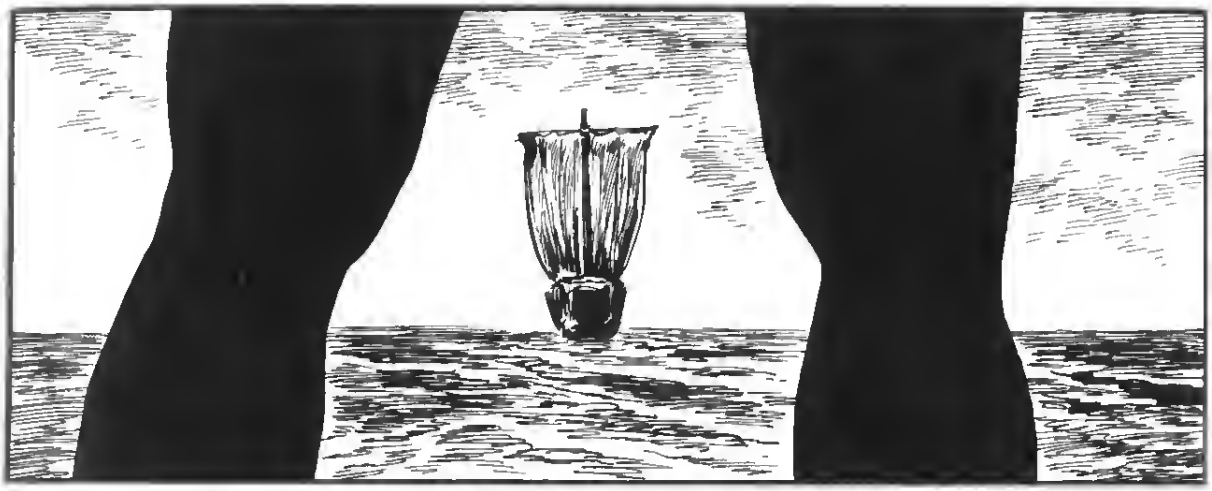

ONE OF SATSUMA'S YOKO-WARA-GUMI, PERHAPS.
SKSSH
H"
?!!
WHO WAS THE SATSUMA HIKYAKU TALKING WITH SHIGEKATA?!
IT'S IN THE HANDS OF FATE AND THE HEAVENS.


IT DOES.

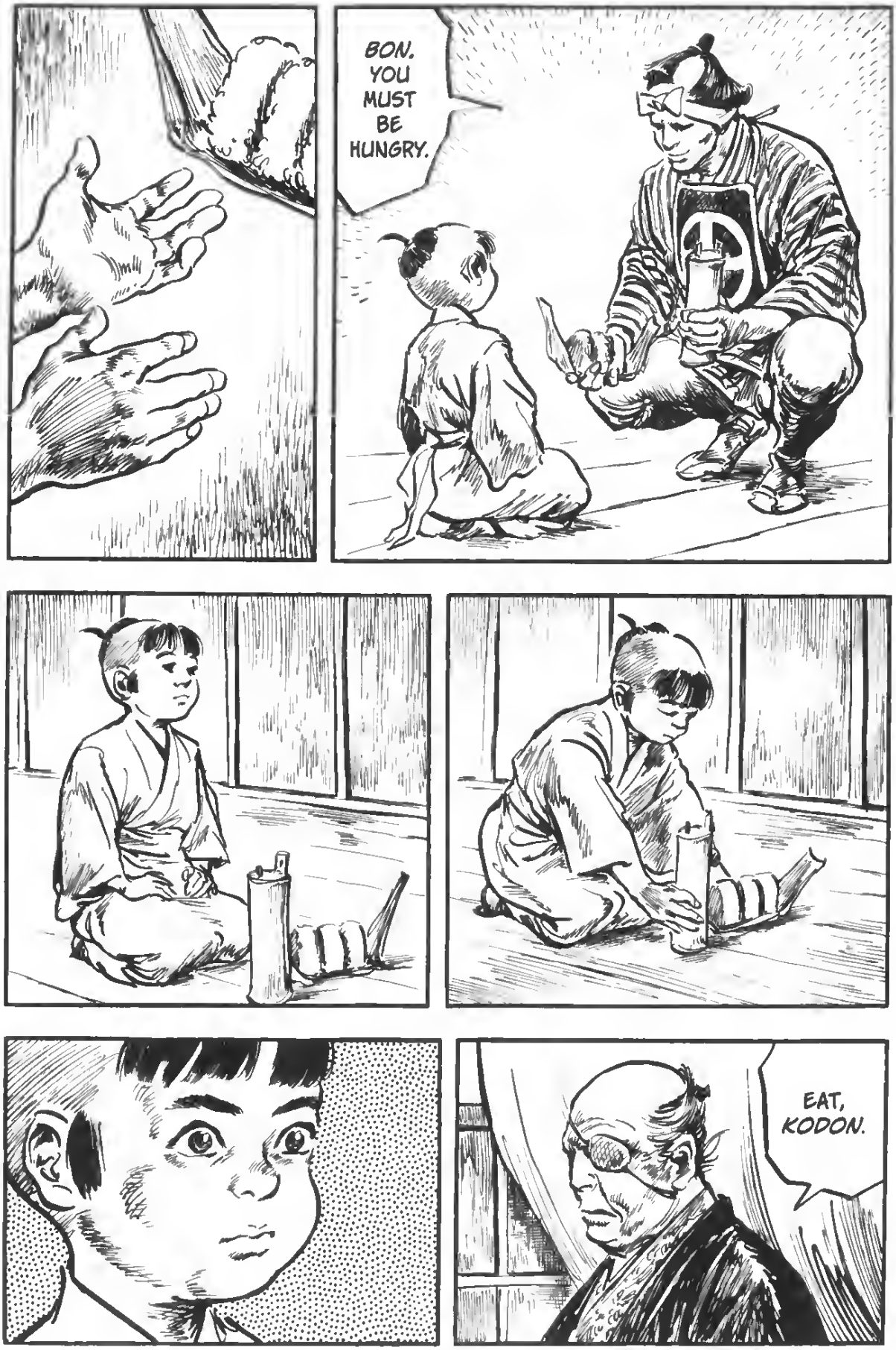

AN AGENT OF ARIMURA SABUROBE? THEN SHIGEKATA'S FAKE LETTER FALLS INTO ARIMURA'S HANDS?!

DOES HE REPORT DIRECTLY TO *SHIMAZU MITSUHISA*?!
NO, THERE'S ANOTHER ABOVE ARIMURA. THE *HEAD* OF THE *YOKOWARA*. HE'S SAID TO ENJOY MITSUHISA-*KŌ*'S DEEPEST TRUST.
HEAD OF THE *YOKOWARA*?! WHAT'S HIS *NAME*?!
SOMETHING LIKE... *RINZŌ*?


THAT'S ALL WE KNOW. AGE, FAMILY NAME, EVERYTHING A MYSTERY.
HRN?!
RINZŌ...



SRRRSSHH
SRRRSSHH


BON. YOU MUST BE HUNGRY.
EAT, KODON.

MY LORD.
BY THE WAY, SHIGE-KATA...
HRMPH! WON'T EAT UNTIL YOU KNOW IF I'M FRIEND OR FOE? TOUGH LITTLE BRAT!
WHY DO SO MANY EMBERS FALL ON YOU?!
IF AN EMBER FALLS ON YOU, YOU BRUSH IT OFF.
I UNDER-STAND YOU KILLED A LOT OF PEOPLE. PEOPLE SENT BY THE SHŌGUN.
HE WAS GRIEVOUSLY WOUNDED AND DIED.
FIRST I KILLED THE MEN WHO WERE PURSUING THAT PERSON.
A CERTAIN PERSON ENTRUSTED ME WITH A CERTAIN SOMETHING TO GIVE TO A CERTAIN OTHER PERSON.

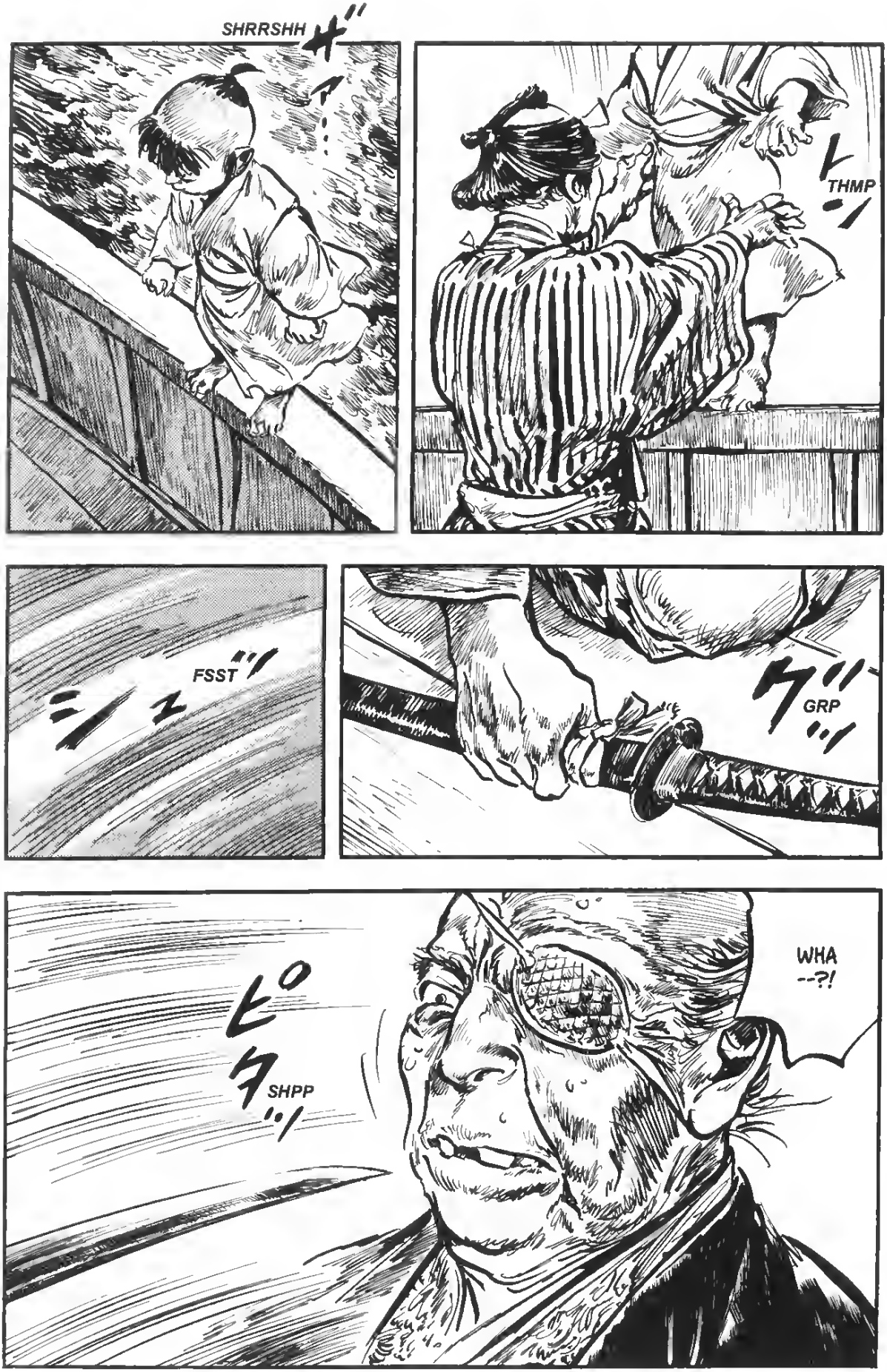
AND NOW, WILLING OR NO, I HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE POSITION OF DELIVERING THAT CERTAIN THING TO THAT OTHER CERTAIN PERSON.
YOU AND I GO BACK *YEARS!* SPEAK *STRAIGHT!*
DON'T TALK TO *ME* LIKE YOU'VE GOT A BIT IN YOUR TEETH!!
SPSSSH

YOU'RE SAYING YOU WON'T EVEN TELL ME?!
WITH EACH MAN I KILLED, EACH TEN, THE WEIGHT OF THAT "CERTAIN THING" BECAME EVER HEAVIER.
THE WEIGHT OF SO MANY LIVES PILED UP, UNTIL NOW THEY WEIGH SO MUCH I CANNOT FREE MYSELF FROM THIS DUTY.
MY PROMISE TO THE DEAD.
I'VE BEEN WARNED THAT *YOU* MIGHT BE *ONMITSU*.

WHAT ?!
SHIGEKATA-DONO. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THIS WAS ALL A SETUP?
RIDICU-LOUS!
.....
WHAT IF YOUR "CERTAIN PERSON" WAS ACTUALLY A SHOGUNATE SPY AND HAD HIS COMRADES ATTACK HIM SO HE COULD GIVE THAT "CERTAIN THING" TO YOU WITH HIS DYING BREATH? WHAT THEN?
AND THEN, THE SHŌGUN'S ONMITSU TURNED THEIR SWORDS ON YOU, TIME AND AGAIN, PRETENDING THEY WANTED TO TAKE BACK THE "CERTAIN THING" HE'D GIVEN YOU.
PLEASE DO THIS FOR ME, PLEASE DO THAT. THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING.
NO DOUBT THERE WAS SOME LAST REQUEST TO GO WITH THIS "CERTAIN THING."

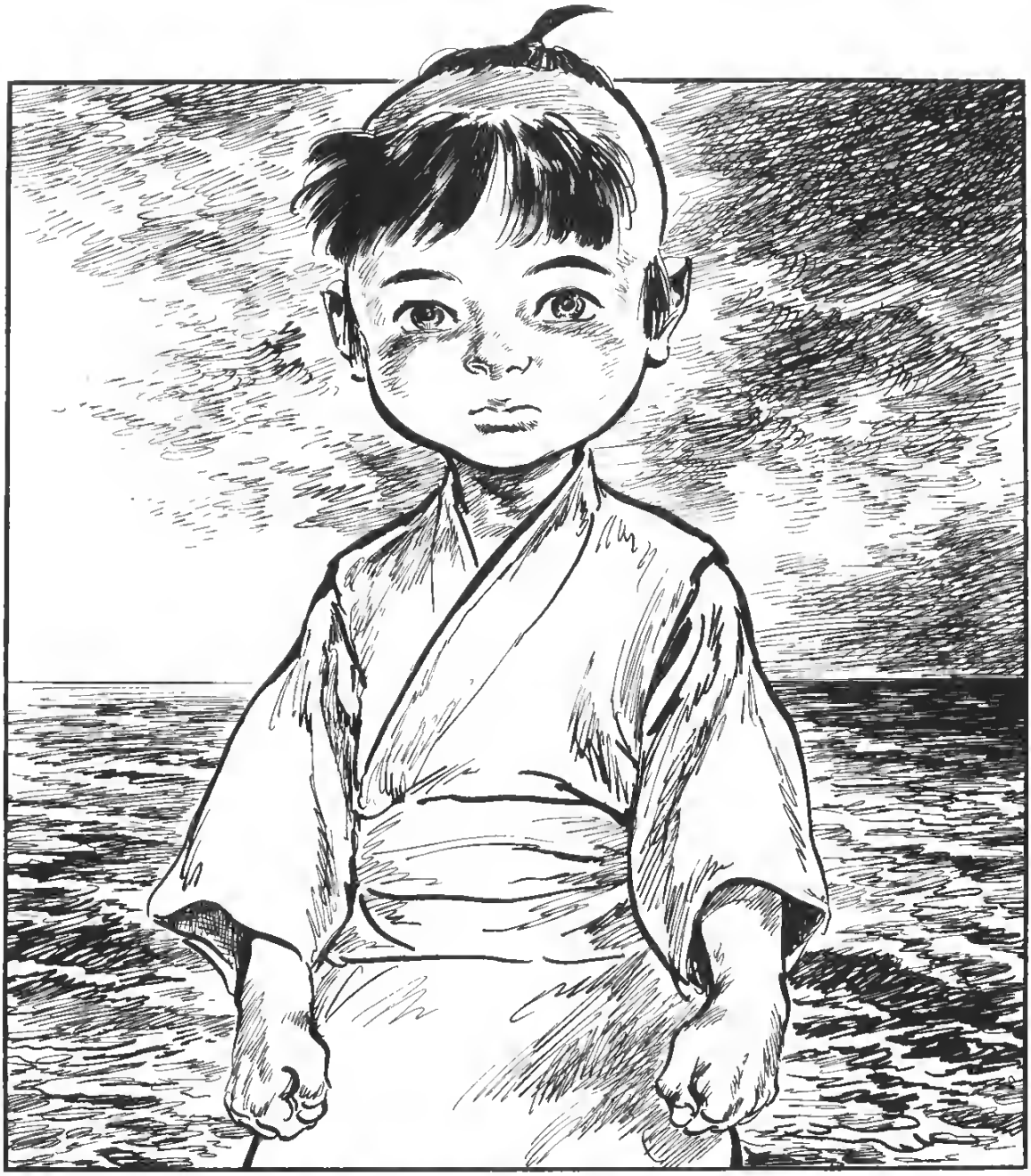
A PLOT TO MAKE YOU RUSH BACK TO SATSUMA TO DO THIS "THING" YOU WERE ASKED TO DO. YOU WERE PICKED. AS THE ONLY MAN WHO COULD PULL IT OFF.
I'M JUST SAYING THAT BOTH YOU, "PERSON," AND HIS PURSUERS COULD ALL HAVE BEEN PART OF A PLOT.
PRE-TENDED ?!
.....
ONE OF MY ONMITSU.
OHAN. WHO ARE YOU?!
BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE. SO TELL ME ALL, SHIGEKATA.
ABSURD !!
WITH THEIR DEATHS THEY CONSPIRED TO DRIVE YOU BACK TO SATSUMA.
THE SHŌGUN'S ONMITSU DREW THEIR BLADES TO BE KILLED BY YOU.

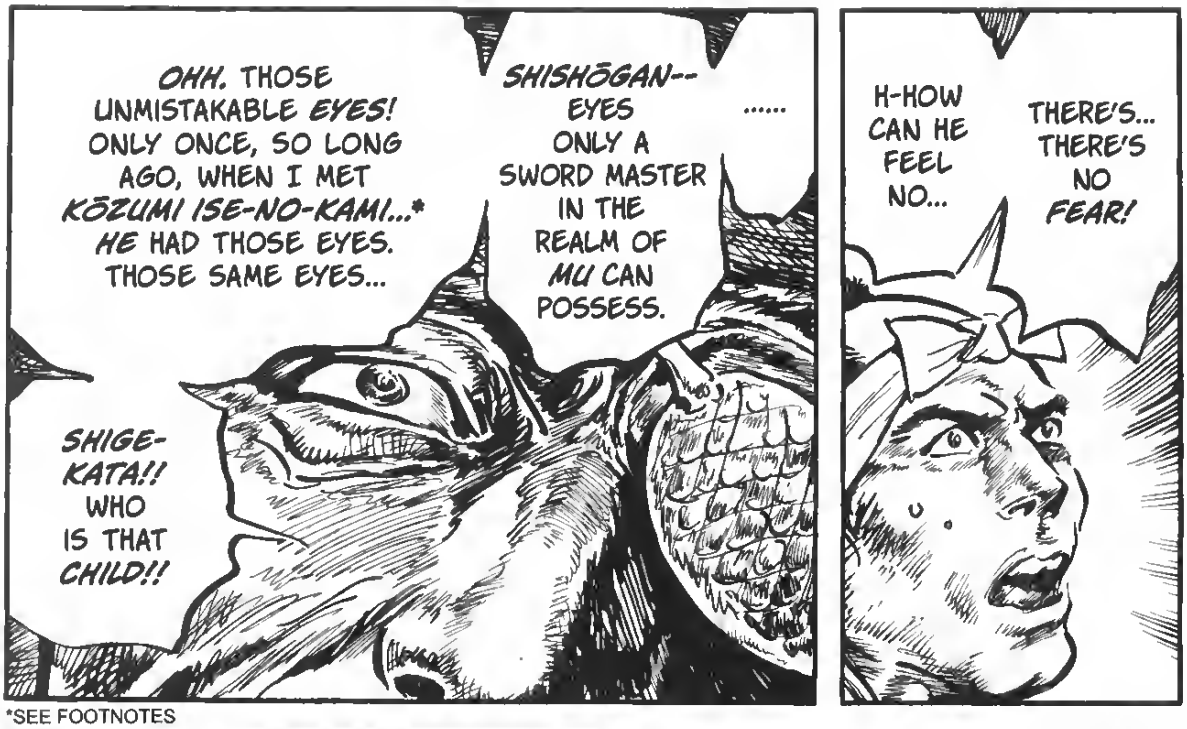
THAM
THROW THAT BOY IN THE SEA!!
FORGIVE ME.
HOPE-LESS!!
FWPP


SHRRSHH
THMP
FSST
GRP
WHA
--?!
SHPP

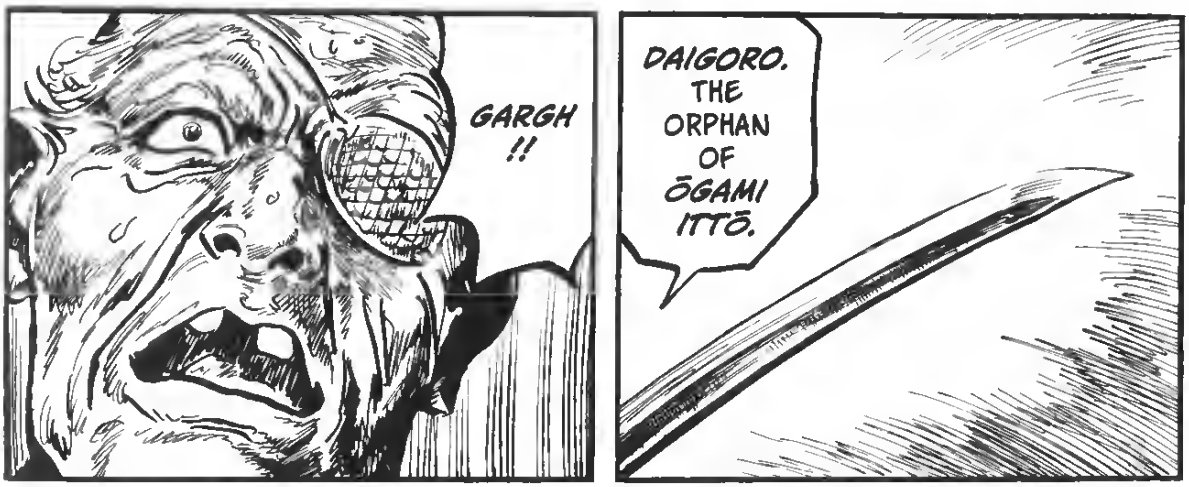
I CRAVED *LEAVE.* YOU ARE NOT MY MASTER *NOW!*
DOG! YOU TURN YOUR BLADE ON YOUR *MASTER?!*

WHAT OF YOU, GO-RŌKŌ? WHO ORDERS A CHILD THROWN INTO THE OCEAN? ARE YOU SAMURAI?!
YOU CALL YOUR-SELF A SAMU-RAI?!
THE BOY'S EYES... LOOK AT HIS EYES!
WHAT IS IT NOW?!
M... MY LORD!




OHH. THOSE UNMISTAKABLE EYES! ONLY ONCE, SO LONG AGO, WHEN I MET KŌZUMI ISE-NO-KAMI...* HE HAD THOSE EYES. THOSE SAME EYES...
SHISHŌGAN-- EYES ONLY A SWORD MASTER IN THE REALM OF MU CAN POSSESS.
.....
SHIGE-KATA!! WHO IS THAT CHILD!!
H-HOW CAN HE FEEL NO...
THERE'S... THERE'S NO FEAR!

*SEE FOOTNOTES



NEW LONE WOLF AND CUB: THE SECOND. THE END.

*SEE FOOTNOTES

FOOTNOTES

page 11: The Ryukyus are a chain of volcanic islands stretching southwest from Kyūshū to Taiwan. Ryukyu, today's Okinawa, was an independent island kingdom until it was conquered by Satsuma *han* in 1609. The islands were formally incorporated into Japan as Okinawa Prefecture in 1879, after the establishment of the modern Japanese state.

page 16: Satsuma dialect: "So! Have you already eaten today?"

page 17: The *kiai* battle cry of the Jigen-*ryū* sword school, founded by the historical Tōgō Shigekata (also called Tōgō Chūi).

page 23: It was common to marry children to potential allies, and to broker them out at a very young age. Aizu *han* was a powerful domain, and Arisugawa-no-Miya a member of the imperial family in Kyoto.

page 110: This sentence is actually a pun in Japanese. The priest mimics the shape of a windblown pine tree (*matsu* in Japanese). The tree *matsu* is a homophone with the verb *matsu*, which means "to wait." This exchange seems intended to show Takehime's depth and discipline.

page 113: Kōshō Kun is one of various Japanese renderings of the name of the Chinese emissary and martial artist Kūsankū (Kwang Shang Fu), who taught martial arts in the Ryukyu Islands. Some attribute the advanced *kankū dai* kata in *shōtōkan* karate to him.

page 204: Kōzumi Ise-no-kami is one of the names of the legendary sword master Kamizumi Ise-no-kami Nobutsuna (1508–1577), founder of the Shinkage-*ryū* (new shadow school) of swordsmanship. Shinkage-*ryū* later evolved into Yagyū Shinkage-*ryū*, the dominant school of swordsmanship in Tokugawa Japan.

page 204: *Mumon no seki*: "The gateless barrier." Derived from *Mumonkan* (*Wúménguān* in Mandarin), *The Gateless Gate* is a thirteenth-century Chinese collection of Zen koan translated into Japanese, one of the core training texts of Japanese Zen Buddhism.

GLOSSARY

bon Satsuma dialect: child.

bushidō The way of the warrior.

chinke-bon Satsuma dialect: little boy.

daimyō A feudal lord.

-dono Archaic honorific suffix; a marker of respect for higher-ranked or highly respected figures.

dōtanuki A battle sword; literally, "sword that cuts through torsos."

funa-bansho Waterway office. Government office to monitor and levy duties on shipping in Japan's main harbors and waterways.

go-dō The five levels in the cycle of Buddhist reincarnation: heaven, human, beast, starvation, hell.

gomennai Edo-period slang: sorry. Contraction of more formal *gomen nasai* (pardon me).

go-rōjū The inner circle of councilors directly advising the *shōgun*. The *rōjū* were the ultimate advisory body to the Tokugawa shogunate's national government. (*Go* is an honorific prefix, a marker of respect.)

go-rōkō-sama A term of respect for an elderly lord or master. *Go* and *sama* are honorifics.

goshirae Sword mountings, including scabbard, handle, and fittings.

han A feudal domain.

hanshi A samurai in the service of a *han*.

hantei A *han* estate. *Daimyō* were required to spend alternating periods in Edo under the watchful eye of the shogunate and maintained elaborate estates near Edo Castle. Sometimes called *Edo yashiki* (Edo mansion).

hekouta Satsuma dialect: a boy's song. *Heko* means "boy" or "young man."

hikyaku Running couriers in an Edo-period version of the Pony Express, in which mail and money were delivered on foot.

Jigen-ryū A traditional school of Japanese martial arts founded in the sixteenth century by the historical Tōgō Shigekata in Satsuma Province. *Jigen-ryū* focuses mainly on swordsmanship and is known for its emphasis on the first strike.

kashobuna-bansho Administrative office for traffic on the Yodo River. *Kashobune* was a generic name for the long, flat-bottomed boats used on the river, including the *sanjikkoku*.

kiai A battle cry. In martial arts, an energetic yell made to accompany a technique.

kibare Satsuma dialect for the Japanese *gambare*: "Give it your all!"

kō A respectful term for a *daimyō* or senior leader.

kodon Satsuma dialect: child, offspring.

kunoichi A female ninja.

kurigata A tie-down on a Japanese scabbard, normally used for hanging the scabbard from a belt.

kyo Untruths, deceptions.

meifumadō The Buddhist hell. The way of demons and damnation.

mu Nothingness. A crucial concept in Zen Buddhism, and a goal in the martial arts. Clearing the mind of all extraneous thoughts and connections to exist wholly in the moment, freed of all attachment to life and the world around you.

TO PAGE 207

FROM PAGE 206

muga Selflessness. The absence of ego and self.

musha-shūgyō A warrior's pilgrimage. A journey to test swordsmanship in actual combat and elevate it into a spiritual pursuit.

-ni Suffix indicating a nun.

niwaban and **niwa-no-mono** Literally, "guards in the garden." Ninja who protected the inner chambers of Edo Castle.

ohan Satsuma dialect: you, your.

oi Satsuma dialect: I, me, my.

omansa Satsuma dialect: a strong, honorable, and respected man. A man among men.

ōoku Literally, "the great interior." The women's quarters of Edo Castle, residence of the *shōgun*'s wife and her entourage, concubines, and other women serving the shogunate. Only the *shōgun* himself and a handful of other males were allowed inside.

rōnin A masterless samurai. Literally, "one adrift on the waves." Members of the samurai caste who have lost their masters through the dissolution of a *han*, expulsion for misbehavior, or other reasons. Prohibited from working as farmers or merchants under the strict Confucian caste system imposed by the Tokugawa shogunate, many impoverished *rōnin* became "hired guns" for whom the code of the samurai was nothing but empty words.

ryū Often translated as "school." The many variations of swordsmanship and other martial arts were passed down from generation to generation to the offspring of the originator of a technique or set of techniques, and to any *deishi* students that sought to learn from the master.

-sama Honorific suffix; a marker of respect used for superiors.

sanjikkoku A thirty-*koku* boat, named for the cargo and passengers it could carry, calculated in quantities of rice (*koku*). *Sanjikkoku* carried passengers and freight daily on the Yodo River, linking Kyoto with the port city of Osaka on the Inland Sea.

Satsuma Edo-period domain including modern-day provinces of Satsuma, Ōsumi, and Hyūga of Kagoshima Prefecture and Miyazaki Prefecture on the island of Kyūshū.

Satsuma-bune The regularly scheduled ship between Satsuma *han* on the southern island of Kyūshū and Osaka on the main island of Honshu.

shōgun A military governor of Japan from the twelfth to nineteenth centuries.

shogunate The government, rule, or office of the *shōgun*.

shoshidai The military governor in Kyoto. Kyoto was home to the emperor and the imperial court, but the shogunate placed a military governor in the city to keep the city and the court under its control.

tachi The longer of a samurai's two swords.

tansakunin A term for ninja, emphasizing their role as spies.

techo Satsuma dialect: father.

tsuba Hand guard of a sword.

wajō A term of respect for a high priest or head of a temple.

waza Martial-arts techniques.

yassenbo Satsuma dialect: coward.

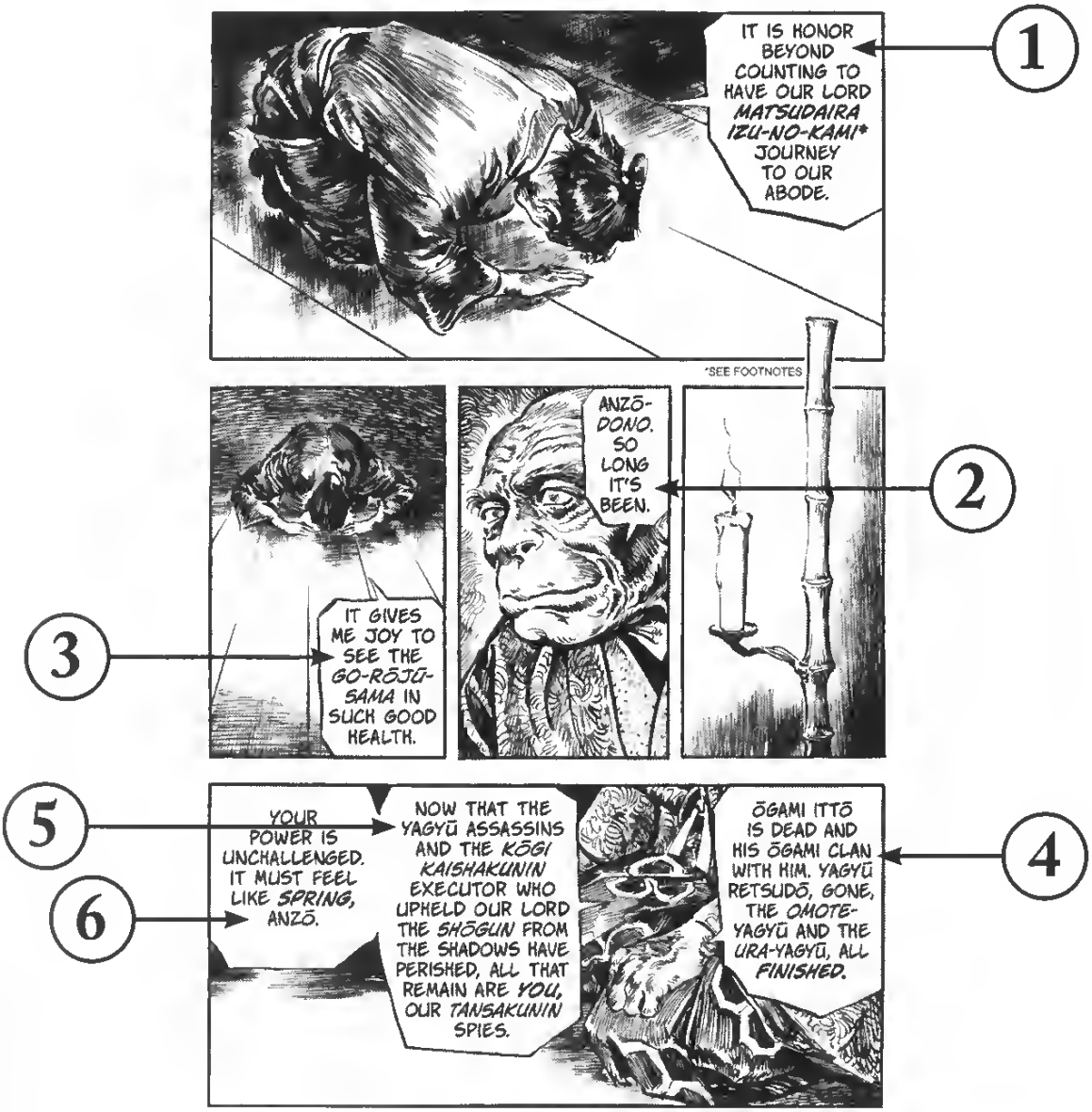
yokado Satsuma dialect: good.

yokowara-gumi Satsuma *han*'s own *tansakunin* spies. A *yokowara* is a cross knot made of rice straw.

STOP!

THIS IS THE BACK OF THE BOOK!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^


1
IT IS HONOR BEYOND COUNTING TO HAVE OUR LORD *MATSUDAIRA IZU-NO-KAMI** JOURNEY TO OUR ABODE.
*SEE FOOTNOTES
2
ANZŌ-*DONO*. SO LONG IT'S BEEN.
3
IT GIVES ME JOY TO SEE THE *GO-RŌJŪ-SAMA* IN SUCH GOOD HEALTH.
4
ŌGAMI ITTŌ IS DEAD AND HIS ŌGAMI CLAN WITH HIM. YAGYŪ RETSUDŌ, GONE, THE *OMOTE*-YAGYŪ AND THE *URA*-YAGYŪ, ALL *FINISHED*.
5
YOUR POWER IS UNCHALLENGED. IT MUST FEEL LIKE *SPRING*, ANZŌ.
6
NOW THAT THE YAGYŪ ASSASSINS AND THE *KŌGI KAISHAKUNIN* EXECUTOR WHO UPHELD OUR LORD THE *SHŌGUN* FROM THE SHADOWS HAVE PERISHED, ALL THAT REMAIN ARE *YOU*, OUR *TANSAKUNIN* SPIES.

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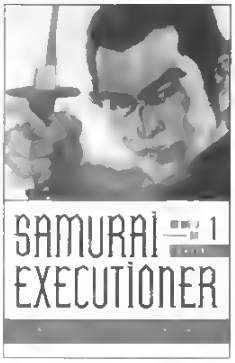

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